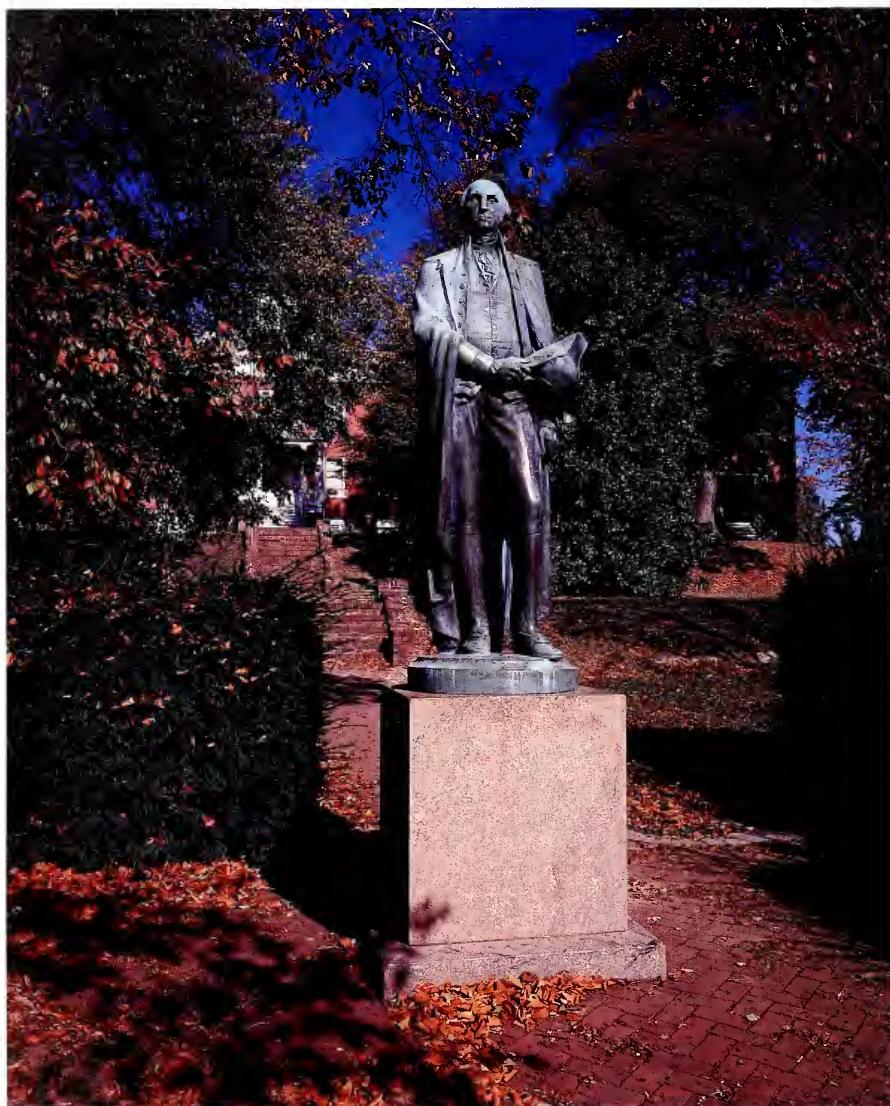


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WASHINGTON
THE COLLEGE AT CHESTER



WASHINGTON

The College at Chester

FOREWORD BY RICHARD HARWOOD
COMPILED BY WILLIAM L. THOMPSON
EDITED BY MARCIA C. LANDSKROENER



The Literary House Press at Washington College

Chestertown, Maryland



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*I am much indebted for the honor conferred on me,
by giving my name to the College at Chester.*

— GEORGE WASHINGTON



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Preface & Acknowledgments

IN THE SPRING OF 1998 the Literary House Press proposed its most ambitious undertaking—the compilation and publication of a large-format, richly-illustrated volume in celebration of Washington College. With encouragement from the administration of College President John S. Toll, the project was launched as part of the College's commemoration of George Washington's life.

William L. Thompson '70 conducted an exhaustive search of archival records and photographs and interviewed dozens of people representing every constituency of the College. The College Relations publications team, led by Meredith Davies Hadaway M'96, organized the compilation of materials into book form for publication. Diane D'Aquino Landskroener '76 M'81, book designer and page layout artist, and Marcia C. Landskroener, writer and editor, were instrumental in the successful completion of this project. While by no means a comprehensive chronological account, this volume does, we believe, capture the essence of Washington College through two centuries of history.

Most attempts during the past century to assemble a College history were hampered by a lack of resources. When valuable documents unique to the school were destroyed in 1916, College President James W. Cain set about replacing the archives in hopes of providing the material necessary for such a history. President Gilbert W. Mead and Dean W.S. William Jones, Class of 1889, continued those efforts. In 1952, the Visitors and Governors authorized funding for a College history. Dr. Charles B. Clark '33, chairman of the Department of History and Political Science, was selected to oversee the project. When he took an academic position elsewhere, the project lay dormant until Frederick "Dutch" Dumschott '27 turned himself to the task in 1973. Seven years later, the first history of Washington College was published in book form.

The Literary House Press trusts that this new book is proof that those efforts by the Cains, the Meads, the Joneses, the Clarks, and others throughout the College's 218-year existence who sought to preserve pieces of its history were

not in vain. Much of their material is printed here for the first time. Where appropriate, portions of Dumschott's out-of-print narrative are recycled. Selected articles from *Washington College Magazine* and other campus publications reappear. And, of course, there is much new material.

We are especially indebted to Robert Janson-La Palme, Washington College's professor emeritus of art history, for his significant contributions as an historical scholar to our understanding of the earliest College history. We are also grateful to W. Robert Fallaw, long-time professor of history, and Joseph L. Holt '83, vice president for administration, both of whom reviewed the entire manuscript.

In addition to the text contributors listed below, the following people helped in ways large and small: Bruce Alexander '94, Charles B. Clark '34, Annie B. Coleman, Mackey Metcalfe Dutton '51, Margaret Fallaw, Ermon Foster, Cynthia Grimaldi, Jack Hamilton, Richard Harwood, Roy Hoopes, Madeline E. Howell, Maureen Jacoby, Bennett J. Lamond, Jim Landskroener M'91, Loretta Lodge, Jennifer Lubkin '00, Bette Lucas, Maureen K. McIntire, Kate Meagher '97, Robert Mooney, Regina Moore, Marion Quick, Bob Rickel, Susan H. Russell, Patricia V. Smith, Dr. Nate Smith, Gretchen Kratzer Starling '73, Jodie A. Taylor, Susan M. Tessem, P Trams Hollingsworth '75, Dr. John S. Toll, William J. Tubbs, Laura Johnstone Wilson, and Cheryl Wolfson.

Most of the photographs reprinted here are owned by the College and come from the archives maintained in Miller Library, Bunting Hall, and the Alumni House. We are grateful for the work of photographers Art Baltrotsky, Carl Goldhagen, and James Martinez, who are responsible for nearly all the four-color reproductions of portraits, artifacts, and contemporary campus scenes. We also gratefully acknowledge the individual contributions of those photographers credited on page 343.

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Foreword

IF ONE WERE TO WRITE the history of Washington College as a novel or screenplay it would be a thriller, full of suspense, miraculous rescues and happy endings. For years, it lurched from crisis to crisis—fires, financial calamities, political disappointments, internal struggles for power, and more than one anguished search for an institutional identity.

None of this was foreseen in the beginning. For the school's founder, William Smith, 1782 was an auspicious time to launch the enterprise. Interest in higher education was spreading throughout the colonies; only a handful of other colleges existed (all but one in the Northeast) to serve a population that had doubled in size between 1775 and 1790 and soon would be doubling every twenty-four years. On the Eastern Shore of Maryland, wealthy landowners with sons to educate and new preachers and teachers to train were enthusiastic over Smith's proposal for a college at Chestertown. They created an endowment for the school (roughly £5000) which was more than ten times larger than the original endowment for Harvard. George Washington not only donated money but lent his name and prestige to the College, serving on its Board of Visitors and Governors. Equally important, the Maryland Assembly voted in 1784 to subsidize the College "annually and forever."

But like most colleges in America, it soon encountered financial difficulties. A major cause was the lack of enough tuition-paying students to keep these institutions afloat. In an agricultural society based on physical labor and craft skills, demand for higher education was virtually non-existent outside circles of the aristocracy and the religious hierarchies. The mass of people—including most doctors, lawyers, surveyors and engineers—learned their trades and acquired their skills through apprenticeships and trial and error, not in college lecture halls. William & Mary, founded in 1693, had an enrollment of only three students at the time Washington College began operations. Princeton had forty, Dartmouth eighty-one. Harvard in its early years and during tough economic times was forced to accept "farm produce, clothing and cattle on the hoof" in lieu of cash for tuition. Richard Ringgold lamented in 1853 that after twenty-one years as president of Washington College, he had only twenty-seven paying students. As

late as 1940 only four percent of the population over twenty-five had completed college. Even today, roughly three out of four adults have not acquired an A.B. degree.

It was obvious then (and still is) that in order to survive, colleges needed other sources of income. Many of them relied on the sponsorship of religious denominations. Harvard was founded and supported by Puritans, Yale by Congregationalists, Princeton by Presbyterians, Brown by Baptists and Georgetown by Catholics. Washington College and St. John's at Annapolis were often described as "Episcopalian" institutions because of their connections with prominent Anglicans such as William Smith, the Parish priest in Chestertown. But there were no formal financial ties to the church and, officially, these schools were non-denominational, open to students of all faiths.

Governmental funding was meager and unreliable as William Smith's successor, Colin Ferguson, learned in 1805 when the College's state grant ("annually and forever") was cut off. The historian Samuel Eliot Morison has written that, "It was typical of the liberal spirit of the South in this era that she pioneered in state universities free from sectarian control." But that spirit was not evident in Maryland for many years to come. Even today state financial aid to its private colleges is modest.

Gifts and endowments from wealthy patrons and ordinary alumni have taken on considerable importance in the financing of higher education in our time. But it was not until this century (and the last few years of the nineteenth) that a sufficient number of great fortunes were amassed to have significant impact on colleges and universities. The Washington College endowment, so impressive in 1782, evaporated within a few years.

Against all these odds, the College has survived for more than two centuries and in every measurable way is healthier and stronger than at any time in its long history. The painful but triumphant struggle to reach high ground is a principal theme of this volume. But there is more than *sturm und drang* to the story. The College is our *alma mater*, which literally means "fostering mother." It is a place of socialization and discovery, a "dream factory" where many of our important relationships begin and informed perceptions of the world are born. Those dimensions of our lives are reflected here, calling upon memories that outlast stone and brick and the stubbed toes of our youth.

RICHARD HARWOOD
Chestertown, MD
June 1999

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made this book possible:*

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Nora C. and Arthur W. Liebold

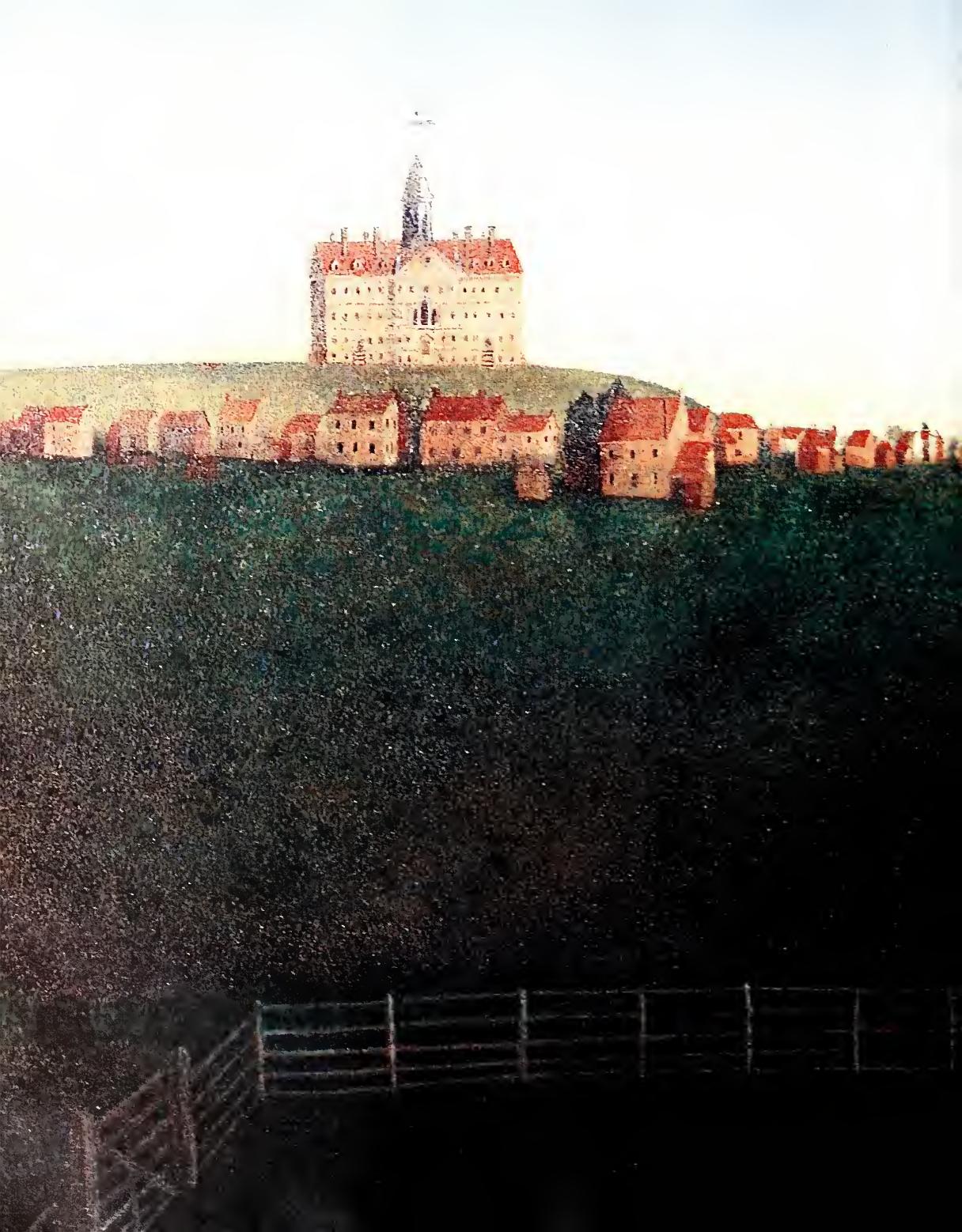
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Founding & Early Development

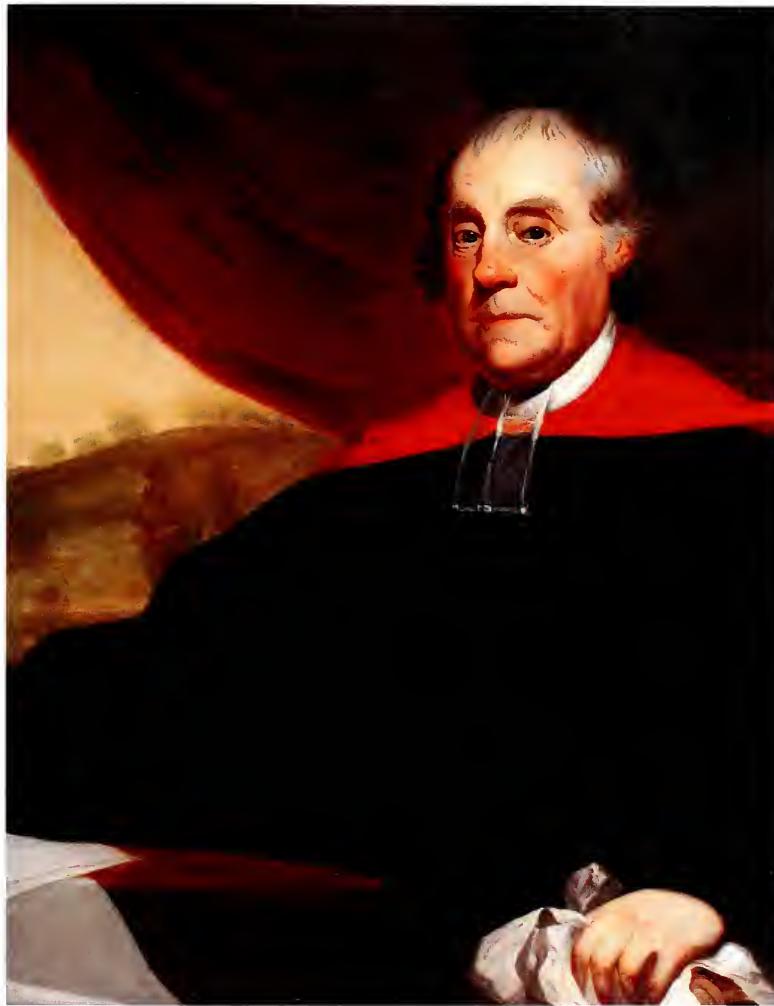


William Smith Forges Ambitious Beginnings

Washington College was born at the dawn of a new republic. Its association with the influential statesmen of the late eighteenth century in general, and with George Washington in particular, portended a bright future for an institution of higher learning at the nation's demographic center. The school was then distinct among its peers in its secular mission as well: Washington College was chartered in 1782 to educate responsible citizens of the new democracy—citizens who could lead government, start businesses, and promote peace and knowledge. In the first blush of its early days, Washington College had everything going for it: the blessing of the most popular man in America, and the educational fervor of its founding

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, like all of the early colleges in North America, began life as an academy for boys: the Kent County Free School, established by an act of the Maryland Assembly in 1723. It offered basic courses in literacy and mathematics to its youngest students and secondary schooling to older boys with an aptitude for Latin and Greek.

The school was taken over late in 1780 by a new headmaster, William Smith of Philadelphia, a noted preacher, educator, land speculator, and acquaintance of Benjamin Franklin. Smith had arrived on the Eastern Shore six months earlier as



1723

KENT COUNTY FREE
SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN
CHESTERTOWN TO SERVE
MARYLAND'S UPPER
EASTERN SHORE AND
DELAWARE.

1775

JUNE 15 •
GEORGE WASHINGTON
ELECTED COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF OF THE
CONTINENTAL FORCES.

1778

DECEMBER 28 •
DR. WILLIAM SMITH,
ATTENDING A MASONIC
FESTIVAL AND SERVICES
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
PHILADELPHIA,
REFERS TO GEORGE
WASHINGTON, WHO IS
PRESENT, AS THE
"AMERICAN
CINCINNATUS."

JULY • DR. SMITH
ARRIVES IN
CHESTERTOWN; SIX
MONTHS LATER IS
NAMED HEAD OF KENT
COUNTY FREE SCHOOL.

1780

NOVEMBER •
DR. SMITH CONVENES
IN CHESTERTOWN A
MEETING OF CLERGY
WHO AGREE TO RENAME
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
THE PROTESTANT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Dr. William Smith had something to prove, to himself as well as his colleagues and associates. During his nine-year tenure, he set the highest academic standards for Washington College. After seeing to the construction of a massive college building and then conferring an honorary degree upon George Washington in 1789, Dr. Smith returned to the College of Philadelphia.



A plaque at the lower end of Washington Avenue in Chestertown marks the site of the Kent County Free School.

rector of the Anglican parish at Chestertown. He combined that position with his duties at the school.

Smith was a man of great energy and ambition and within two years had devised, with support from the local gentry, a plan to upgrade the school by adding a collegiate department and obtaining a charter from the Maryland Assembly. The charter was granted on May 24, 1782, with the proviso that "the sum of £5,000 beyond the value of the Kent County school was to be raised within five years."

The tireless Smith was up to the task. He mounted his horse, Washington College historians Gilbert W. Mead and Charles B. Clark tell us, and "canvassed the wealthy planters of the Eastern Shore counties and those of the Virginia Eastern Shore, with such success that the whole amount was secured within five months...."

One of the subscribers was General George Washington, an old friend of Smith's, who agreed to allow the College to be named in his honor. Washington pledged fifty guineas to the school's founding "as an earnest of my wishes for the prosperity of this seminary." He also accepted a place on the College's Board of Visitors and Governors. It was the only college board on which he ever served. He relinquished that position after becoming the first President of the United States in 1789. Three months later, on June 24, he received an honorary degree of



George Washington's gift of fifty guineas—valued at 87 pounds, 10 shillings—was the largest of all the founding gifts and was used to purchase scientific equipment for course offerings in surveying, navigation, and astronomy.

1782

MAY 16 •
LEGISLATOR AND
COLLEGE SUBSCRIBER
EDWARD LLOYD
INTRODUCES PETITION
TO MARYLAND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REQUESTING CHARTER
FOR A COLLEGE IN
CHESTERTOWN.

MAY 24 • GENERAL
ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL
GRANTING CHARTER
FOR FIRST COLLEGE IN
MARYLAND.

SUMMER • DR. SMITH
CANVASSES THE
EASTERN SHORE AND
RAISES £10,000 TO
START COLLEGE.

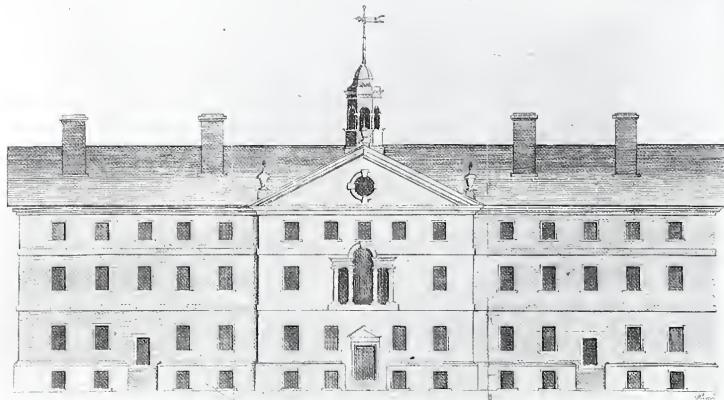
AUGUST 18 • IN A
LETTER TO DR. SMITH,
GEN. GEORGE
WASHINGTON WRITES,
“.. I AM MUCH
INDEBTED FOR THE
HONOR CONFERRED
UPON ME, BY GIVING
MY NAME TO THE
COLLEGE AT CHESTER.”

NOVEMBER 26 •
VISITORS AND
GOVERNORS INFORM
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THAT FUNDING
REQUIREMENT OF
CHARTER HAS BEEN
OBLIGED.

1783

“HIS EXCELLENCY
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
ESQ.” PAYS SUB-
SCRIPTION TO
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE AMOUNTING
TO £87/1; PAYMENT
MADE THROUGH
DR. SMITH.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE in the State of MARYLAND.



The first College building, shown in this engraving, was destroyed by fire January 11, 1827.

Doctor of Laws from Washington College. It was the first degree he accepted after becoming president and was presented to him in New York, then the seat of Congress, by Dr. Smith and two members of the College Board of Visitors and Governors—U.S. Senator John Henry and Congressman Joshua Seney. The original diploma of the degree, Mead and Clark have written, is now “a treasured item” in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

On July 11, Washington wrote a letter of appreciation to Dr. Smith:

It affords me peculiar pleasure to know that the Seat of Learning under your direction has attained to such proficiency in the Sciences since the Peace; and I sincerely pray the great Author of the Universe may smile upon the Institution, and make it an extensive blessing to this country.

Before the year was out, Smith had left Washington College and returned to the College of Philadelphia as provost, a position he had held for twenty-five years—from 1754 until 1779—before moving to Chestertown.

Smith, a Scottish-born Episcopal minister educated by Anglicans at the University of Aberdeen, had come to the American colonies in 1751 as the impecunious tutor to the sons of a wealthy Long Island family. He was twenty-five years old. Two years later he published *A General Idea of the College of Mirania*, a pamphlet outlining the aims and types of courses he thought an American college should offer. Humanity, he wrote, is divided into two classes: those who require

a classical education because they are “designed for the learn’d Profession; by which they understand Divinity, Law, Physics, Agriculture, and the Chief Offices of the State. The Second Class are those designed for Mechanic Professions and all the remaining People of the Country.” For those channeled into the “mechanic” or vocational school, Smith believed, time spent on classical studies—Latin and Greek in particular—would be wasted.

The pamphlet so impressed Benjamin Franklin and other trustees of the Academy of Charitable Schools of Philadelphia that they offered Smith the job of creating a college atop the school system. He agreed in May 1753 but waited a year before beginning work. He spent that time in England where he was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church; six years later he was awarded divinity doctorates from Oxford, Aberdeen, and Trinity College in London.

In May 1754 he assumed his duties in Philadelphia as provost of the Academy, which a year later became the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania). He soon became a prominent preacher and leader in the intellectual community of Philadelphia and acquired a large estate outside the city through land speculation. During the hard winter of 1777-1778 he befriended General Washington and preached to his troops at Valley Forge. When his “best horse” and cattle were requisitioned by the Army, a personal appeal to Washington secured the return of the cattle and payment for the horse.

All in all, however, he was not a popular man. Historian Mead, who was president of Washington College from 1933 to 1949, writes: “Twice in jail for libel while in Philadelphia, he was finally purged of the charge only by a personal appeal to the Crown. High-tempered, irascible, powerfully controversial, he was either friend or enemy of every man of importance in the colonies between the Carolinas and Massachusetts. Vocally, his critics outnumbered his friends.” He was hostile to Quakers and broke with his patron by insisting that Franklin deserved no credit for discovering the principle of electricity. He also opposed Franklin’s application for an honorary degree from Oxford University.

Franklin later said: “I made that man my enemy by doing him too much kindness. ’Tis the honestest way of making an enemy. And since ’tis convenient to have at least one enemy who by his readiness to revile one on all occasions may make one careful of one’s conduct, I shall keep him an enemy for that purpose.”

In 1779 the Pennsylvania Assembly, offended by Smith’s ambivalence toward the Revolution and his loyalist rhetoric, withdrew the charter for the College of Philadelphia, leaving Smith without a job.

He turned his eyes to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he had wealthy friends, most notably General John Cadwalader who had married into the richest family on the Shore, the Lloyds.

Cadwalader, art historian Robert J.H. Janson-LaPalme writes, had been one

1783

MAY 14 •
FIRST COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT AND
FIRST COLLEGIATE
GRADUATION IN
MARYLAND; CEREMONY
HELD IN “THE CHURCH
IN CHESTER-TOWN”;
GUEST OF HONOR IS
GOV. WILLIAM PACA, A
MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

MAY 15 • GOVERNOR
PACA LAYS
CORNERSTONE FOR
FIRST COLLEGE
BUILDING.

AUGUST 16 •
DR. SMITH ELECTED
FIRST BISHOP OF
MARYLAND’S
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL
CHURCH.

DECEMBER 23 • GEORGE
WASHINGTON RESIGNS
COMMISSION AS
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
OF CONTINENTAL ARMY
AT STATE HOUSE IN
ANNAPOLIS.

1784

JANUARY 14 •
CONGRESS MEETING IN
ANNAPOLIS RATIFIES
TREATY OF PARIS,
ENDING
REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

LOTTERY TICKETS,
APPROVED BY
MARYLAND
LEGISLATURE, SOLD TO
RAISE FUNDS FOR
COLLEGE.

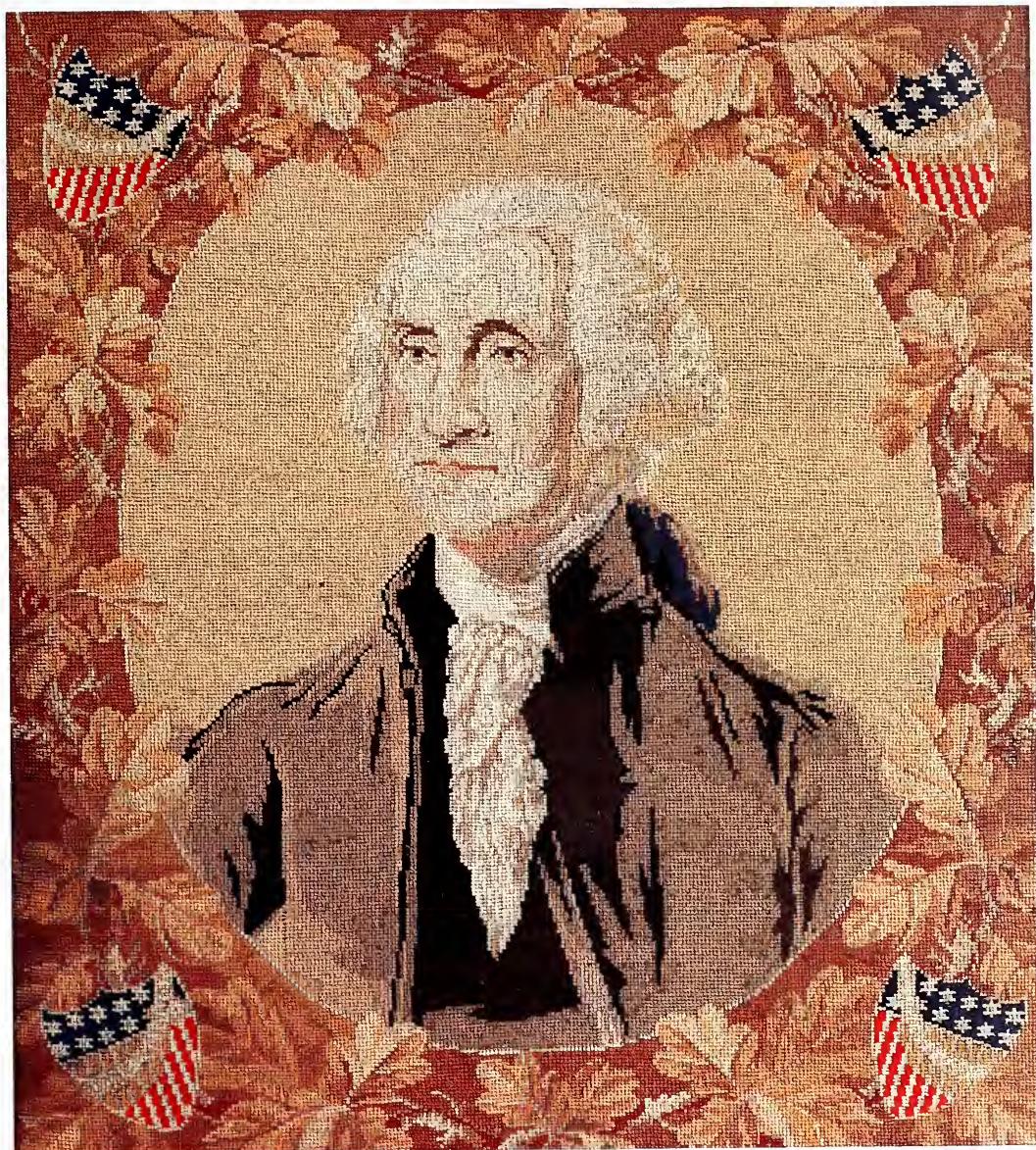
MAY • GEORGE
WASHINGTON VISITS
THE COLLEGE.



The first Washington College commencement, as depicted by artist Guy Steele Fairlamb, included a formal procession and student debates.

of Smith's students in Philadelphia and, along with the Lloyd family and other large landholders, invested heavily in Smith's plan for Washington College, which was closely patterned after the College of Philadelphia. The curriculum included algebra, the twelve books of Euclid, geometry, astronomy, navigation, logic, Latin and Greek, ethics, natural history, philosophy, rhetoric, poetry, agriculture, history, plant study and anatomy and biblical history.

"The first commencement," Mead and Clark write, "held on May 14, 1783, was in the best academic traditions of the day, with orations in the classical tongues, as well as in English; debates and a great procession to the present campus, where the cornerstone of the first College building was laid by Gov. William Paca [a former student of Smith's], who received a [thirteen-gun salute] to greet him." Four bachelor's degrees were awarded that year and the festivities were capped by the marriage of Smith's daughter, Williamina Elizabeth, to Charles Goldsborough, son of a wealthy Eastern Shore planter.

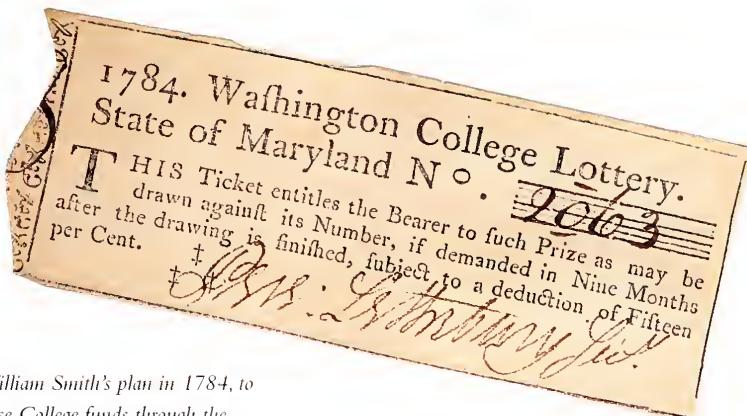


George Washington, painstakingly embroidered in a French convent more than 150 years ago by an ancestor of Maryland's Paca family. The artwork was presented to the College by William W. Paca Jr. '42 and Helen Paca Blackwell '78.



George Washington attended commencement ceremonies in May 1784. It was on this occasion that he took his seat and subscribed his name as a member of the Visitors and Governors. This depiction of a campus visit is one of two paintings that decorated the main reading room of Bunting Library in the mid-1900s.

1784



William Smith's plan in 1784, to raise College funds through the sale of lottery tickets, failed.

JULY 6 • THREE YOUTHS RECEIVE BACCA- LAUREATE DEGREES DURING COLLEGE'S SECOND COMMENCEMENT.

1788

APRIL 28 • MARYLAND, THE SEVENTH STATE, RATIFIES U.S. CONSTITUTION.

1789

APRIL 14 • GEORGE WASHINGTON ACCEPTS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE NEW UNITED STATES; LATER RESIGNS HIS POSITION ON COLLEGE BOARD.

JUNE 24 • GEORGE WASHINGTON GRANTED HONORARY DEGREE OF LL.D., WHICH HE RECEIVES IN NEW YORK CITY, THEN THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

DR. SMITH IS REINSTATED AS PROVOST OF THE COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA; HE IS SUCCEEDED AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE BY THE REV. COLIN FERGUSON.

1790

MAY • DR. SMITH RETURNS TO CHESTERTOWN TO ATTEND HIS LAST COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

Spreading Seeds of Education

SMITH HAD HIGH HOPES that Washington College, together with a college to be founded on Maryland's Western Shore, would constitute a "University of Maryland." If Smith had remained at Washington College another year or two, it might have come to pass.

He was instrumental in the movement to establish St. John's College at Annapolis in 1784, and the act granting St. John's its college charter stipulated that the two colleges would be united. According to Fred W. Dumschott's history of Washington College, the governor of Maryland was designated temporary chancellor of the proposed university. Smith delivered the address at the dedication of Maryland's second college on November 11, 1789, and the governor scheduled the first convocation of the two colleges to take place a year later, on November 10, 1790.

The governor summoned the respective representatives to meet with him in Annapolis to formalize the University of Maryland as prescribed by law. But before that meeting could take place, the College of Philadelphia regained its charter and Smith eagerly returned to the city as the school's provost. The meeting never happened. Washington College failed to send a representative to a second meeting the governor called a year later. For whatever reason, the notion of a statewide university that sprung from these early Maryland colleges was not pursued further.

Why Washington College is the Nation's Tenth Oldest Institution of Higher Learning

By Marcia C. Landskroener

By itself, Washington College's association with founding patron General George Washington gives it status as one of the oldest colleges in the country. Because in 1782 the Maryland General Assembly granted a corporate charter establishing on the foundation of the Kent County Free School a new college to be named after General Washington, the institution lays claim to three historical milestones—it is the first college founded in the newly-formed United States, it is the first college chartered in Maryland, and it is the country's tenth oldest institution of higher learning.

Yet this latter claim is one that often has been questioned. Some accountings of historical rank have relegated Washington College to the eleventh, thirteenth, fifteenth, even twentieth position in the academic processional line-ups for presidential inaugurations and in college directories and other references.

Ironically, the College's historic reputation has been challenged because the institution has taken the high road in using the date of college charter as a founding date, instead of using the date of inception of the earliest educational institution with which the college or university could be linked. In Washington College's case, that would be the Kent County Free School, established in 1723 by act of the Maryland General Assembly.

Respected institutions like St. John's College, Washington and Lee University, and Washington and Jefferson claim earlier founding dates than Washington College, but if Washington College were to follow their logic, its delegates would be marching fifth—behind only Harvard, William and Mary, St. John's, and Yale—not tenth, or fifteenth. St. John's College claims 1696 as a founding date, even though its predecessor, a state-mandated

county free school known as the King Williams School, was not granted a college charter until 1784. Washington and Lee evolved from the Augusta Academy founded in 1749 and renamed Liberty Hall in 1776, but not empowered to grant college degrees until October 1782. Washington and Jefferson College, which evolved from two log cabin schoolhouses, uses as its founding date 1781. These two academies—Jefferson and Washington—were granted college charters in 1802 and 1806, respectively, before merging in 1865.

Claiming the number six position in historic reckonings, Moravian College in Pennsylvania traces its origins to a preparatory school for girls founded in 1742, though the girls' school and its companion institution for boys were not granted a charter to award college degrees until 1863. Likewise, Salem College began as a school for girls in 1772 and eventually was granted college status more than 100 years later.

The University of Delaware is a good example of common sense prevailing. According to standard practices, UD could claim 1743 as its founding date. After all, the university can trace its origin to a free school opened by a Presbyterian minister at New London, PA, in 1743. After twenty years the school moved to Delaware, where it was chartered in 1769 as the Academy of Newark. By 1833, the impoverished academy finally became the basis of a college when the state legislature authorized a lottery to raise funds for this purpose. Eighty years had elapsed since that first whisper of education. To its credit, the University of Delaware uses 1833 as a founding date.

Similarly, Washington College's position is that the date of college charter is a more authentic indication of when a school actually became an institution of higher learning. America's earliest colleges unquestionably sprang from humble beginnings. These efforts to introduce education into the new colonies were noble. But schools teaching six-year-olds to do their sums and those preparing older students for degrees are two

different things. When a school was granted a college charter, its educational mission entered a higher realm. Like other colonial schools, this institution's college charter, granted by the Maryland State legislature on May 24, 1782, enabled it to raise money and to begin performing the functions of a college. Thus, Washington College became a college, and was founded as a college, on that date.

Donald G. Tewksbury's monograph, *The Founding of American Colleges and Universities Before the Civil War*, published by Arno Press and *The New York Times* in 1969, gives credence to Washington College's assertion as the nation's tenth oldest college. Tewksbury uses the date of college charter to determine the order of founding. His order of rankings appears in the chart below.

Washington College may not be the tenth oldest *school* that ever offered educational instruction—in fact, its earliest beginnings are much older than that—but it remains the tenth oldest institution of higher learning in the nation.

INSTITUTION	CHARTER DATE
1 Harvard University	October 28, 1636
2 College of William and Mary	February 8, 1693
3 Yale University	October 16, 1701
4 Princeton (College of New Jersey)	October 22, 1746
5 Columbia University	October 31, 1754
6 University of Pennsylvania	June 16, 1755
7 Brown University	October 24, 1765
8 Rutgers (Queen's College)	November 10, 1766
9 Dartmouth	December 13, 1769
10 Washington College	May 24, 1782
11 Washington and Lee University	October __, 1782
12 Hampden-Sydney College	May __, 1783
13 Transylvania College	May 5, 1783
14 Dickinson College	September 9, 1783
15 St. John's College	November __, 1784
16 University of Georgia	January 27, 1785
17 College of Charleston	March 19, 1785
18 Franklin and Marshall	March 10, 1787
19 University of North Carolina	December 11, 1789
20 University of Vermont	November 3, 1791 W



The Washington College seal is based on a design believed to have been created by Charles Willson Peale's daughter Elizabeth, who taught art at the College in the late 1700s.

1799

OCTOBER 13 • WILLIAM PACA, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, THIRD GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, MEMBER OF COLLEGE'S FIRST BOARD, DIES AT HIS HOME IN QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY.

DECEMBER 14 • GEORGE WASHINGTON DIES OF "QUINSY," AN INFLAMMATION OF THE THROAT, AT HIS MOUNT VERNON HOME.

1803

MAY 14 • DR. SMITH DIES AT AGE 76 IN PHILADELPHIA; HE IS BURIED IN A VAULT AT HIS ESTATE AT FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL.

1805

NOVEMBER • MARYLAND LEGISLATURE DISCONTINUES FINANCIAL AID TO WASHINGTON COLLEGE AND ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

MARCH 10 • REV. COLIN FERGUSON DIES AT HIS HOME IN KENT COUNTY AFTER RESIGNING AS COLLEGE PRINCIPAL; NEPHEW COLIN FERGUSON IS PUT IN CHARGE OF SCHOOL.

1812

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE RENEWS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE WITH AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF \$800.

Some historians have speculated that each institution was reluctant to concede leadership to the other. Others considered that the difficulty of travel and the precarious financial situation at Washington College were factors. Most likely, the departure of William Smith, the architect of the plan, doomed the prospect. Any glimmering hope of an early University of Maryland was snuffed entirely in 1805, when the General Assembly eliminated the State's annual support of the two colleges.

Built on a Grand Scale

SMITH OVERSAW the construction and opening in 1788 of the first College building, a huge structure for the day, 160 feet in length along the terrace on the upper campus, overlooking the river and the town. The central section was 100 feet deep and the two wings were 60 feet each. The building was four stories high plus an attic, making the overall height approximately 53 feet.

Plans for the new building were prepared by Rakestrav and Hicks of Philadelphia. Contracted by Robert Allison of Philadelphia, the building's cost of construction was estimated at \$28,000.

As successful as Smith had been in finding start-up funds for the College, however, he was less successful in funding the cost of what may have been the largest building in Maryland at the time. According to a travelogue published in 1796 by Duc de la Rochefoucault-Liancourt, the huge College building was "in a deplorable state of decay, although it is not yet finished. There is no glass in the windows, the walls have fallen down in many places, and the doors are without steps.... Twelve or fifteen hundred dollars have already been expended on this building. It is constructed on a plan large enough to receive five hundred scholars. Funds are wanting to complete it and like almost all buildings in America it will be in ruins before it is finished."

The French writer reported that the College was endowed with \$3,330 a year. "It maintains a president and three masters; the number of scholars, however, is not more than forty or fifty, though for sixteen dollars all the branches of learning which are taught there may be acquired. Boarders pay eighty or ninety dollars for their board."

Enrollment had never been enough to support the cost of the building, and the Board of Visitors and Governors were still trying to pay it off when Smith stepped down as president and returned to Philadelphia in 1789.

To raise a portion of the funds needed to meet the costs of construction, the land holdings of the College, extending from the campus to the edge of Ches-

tertown, embracing both sides of Washington Avenue, had been divided into sixty-three lots, to be disposed of at public auction under a lease arrangement. The charter provided that the trustees set aside ten acres of land to meet the needs of the institution. The remainder of the land of the Kent County Free School was to be leased out for a period of ninety-nine years, or such other term as the Visitors and Governors of the College might judge most beneficial for advancing the interests of the College.

As the sale of leaseholds did not provide sufficient funds to meet their needs, the Visitors and Governors received permission to conduct a lottery in August 1784. Under the plan presented to the public, the prizes ranged from one of \$4,000 down to 3,000 at eight dollars a piece. Ten thousand tickets were authorized to be printed and the cost to the purchaser was four dollars each. Of the total number of tickets to be sold, 3,187 earned prizes. There is no record that indicates the amount realized from this lottery.

Continuing their efforts to secure funds for the operation of the College, in November 1784, the Visitors and Governors requested an annual appropriation from the General Assembly that would be sufficient to meet the salaries of the faculty, as only a fraction of the yearly expenses could be expected from tuition and rental fees. The General Assembly, in accepting the report of a legislative committee, enacted that "the sum of twelve hundred and fifty pounds current money be annually and forever hereafter be given and granted, as a donation by the public, to the use of Washington College, to the payment of salaries to the principal, professors, and tutors of the said College."

To provide the necessary funds, the act imposed taxes on marriage licenses, on licenses issued to hawkers and peddlers, and on the sale of liquors. The sums derived from such taxes collected on the Eastern Shore were to be deposited with the treasurer of the Eastern Shore, who would, upon requisition of the Visitors and Governors, pay to the College an amount equivalent to the grant specified in the legislation.

Facing Colossal Disappointment

WITH THE PROMISE of state support in perpetuity, financial prospects appeared promising, but those prospects dimmed in succeeding years owing to diminishing enrollments, inadequate funds for the development of the College, and the ever-present danger that the state might withdraw its annual donation.

1812

JUNE 18 • U.S.
CONGRESS DECLARES
WAR ON ENGLAND.

1816

SEPTEMBER 16 •
COLLEGE BOARD AGREES
TO HIRE REV. JOAB G.
COOPER AS "PRINCIPAL"
OR PRESIDENT AT NO
LESS THAN \$1,000 A
YEAR; HE AND HIS
FAMILY OCCUPY EAST
END OF THE
COLLEGE BUILDING.

OCTOBER 16 • COLLEGE
ADOPTS NEW
CURRICULUM OF
"LATIN, GREEK,
MATHEMATICS, BELLES
LETTRES, AND PHYSICS."
UNDER "BELLES
LETTRES," STUDENTS
STUDY MORAL
PHILOSOPHY, LOGIC,
NATEL'S LAW OF
NATIONS, AND ENGLISH
GRAMMAR.

NOVEMBER 16 •
COLLEGE PRESIDENT
COOPER ANNOUNCES
THAT A STUDENT WHO
SLEEPS LATE AND DOES
NOT ANSWER TO ROLL
CALL IS TO BE FINED 12
1/2 CENTS; THAT ANY
STUDENT WHO MIGHT
"TRIFLE AWAY HIS TIME
IN ANY WAY" IS SUBJECT
TO THE SAME FINE; THAT
A STUDENT WHO COMES
TO RECITATION
UNPREPARED WILL BE
FINED 50 CENTS (WITH
PRIVATE ADMONITION
FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE,
PUBLIC ADMONITION
FOR THE SECOND, AND
EXPULSION FOR
ADDITIONAL OFFENSES).



The original College building is evident at left in "A View of Chestertown from White House Farm," a late eighteenth-century painting given to the College by the Reverend Richard Hooker Wilmer. The College structure burned in 1827.



EULOGIUM ON BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

L. L. D.

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT PARIS,
OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY AT GOTTINGEN,
THE BATAVIAN SOCIETY IN HOLLAND,
AND OF MANY OTHER LITERARY SOCIETIES IN EUROPE AND
AMERICA;
LATE MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA AT THE COURT OF PARIS,
SOMETIME PRESIDENT, AND FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY
A REVERED CITIZEN, OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

DELIVERED MARCH 1, 1791, IN THE GERMAN ESTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,
BEFORE THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, AND AGREEABLY TO
THEIR APPOINTMENT,

BY WILLIAM SMITH, D. D.

ONE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE SAID SOCIETY, AND PROVOST OF THE
COLLEGE, AND ACADEMY OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE MEMORY OF THE DECEASED WAS HONORED ALSO, AT THE DELIVERY
OF THIS EULOGIUM, WITH THE PRESENCE OF
THE PRESIDENT, SENATE, AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
THE CORPORATION, AND MOST OF THE PUBLIC SOCIETIES, AS WELL AS RE-
PECTABLE PRIVATE CITIZENS, OF PHILADELPHIA.

PAINTED BY
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BACHE,
PHILADELPHIA, 1791.

Although disagreements between Dr. William Smith and Benjamin Franklin were numerous, Smith's eulogy on Franklin was so popular that it was published as a pamphlet.

1817

MAY 8 • COLLEGE RAISES PRICE OF TUITION IN ENGLISH SCHOOL TO \$5 PER QUARTER.

JUNE 16 • REV. COOPER DIRECTED TO LAUNCH LOTTERY TO RAISE \$30,000.

JULY 19 • COLLEGE PRESIDENT REV. COOPER RESIGNS.

OCTOBER 10 • GERALD E. STACK IS MADE TEMPORARY COLLEGE HEAD.

DECEMBER 30 • THE REV. FRANCIS WATERS IS NAMED "PRINCIPAL" OF THE COLLEGE.

1818

SEPTEMBER 28 • COLLEGE TRUSTEES REJECT REV. WATERS' REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SMOKE HOUSE FOR USE BY THE STEWARD IN PREPARING MEALS.

1819

JULY 8 • WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, ALL STUDENTS ARE ORDERED TO BOARD AT THE COLLEGE AT THE COST OF \$120 A YEAR.

As early as 1785, several members of the House of Delegates proposed that the act be rescinded. Although the motion was initially defeated, opposition continued for the next twenty years.

In 1792, a House committee accused the College of misusing the state funds that were appropriated to meet faculty salaries. Those funds, they charged, were being used to pay College debts and to make payments on the contract to complete the building. The report recommended that the appropriation to the College be discontinued and that the funds be used, instead, to promote literature among the several counties on the Eastern Shore. The report probably confirmed the view that the College faced serious problems. It also indicated the desire of some members of the committee to effect a wider distribution of state funds for the encouragement of local schools.

In November 1797 a Senate committee found that the College was not making satisfactory progress and recommended that the funds allocated to the institution be distributed to Washington Academy in Somerset County, Easton Grammar School in Talbot County, and Washington College. The recommendation was designed to encourage the establishment of three academies on the Eastern Shore. The Senate did not accept the recommendation.

A year later, the General Assembly enacted a bill that reduced the grant to Washington College by £500. Those funds were to be distributed among Washington Academy in Somerset County, Charlotte Hall in Charles County, and an academy in Frederick County. Additional funds were to be made available for the establishment of academies in Talbot County, Baltimore or Harford County, and one in Allegany County.

The inevitable blow came in 1805. A bill terminating the annual grants to Washington and St. John's colleges, introduced in the House of Delegates, was received favorably in both houses. Before final passage of the bill, the two colleges were given the opportunity to show cause why the grants should not be terminated. The appeals were made, but they failed to alter the views of the legislators.

Jedidiah Morse, writing in 1805, stated that, "from the repeated attempt of the Legislature to take away annual funds from [Washington] College, it has in some measure lost its reputation, though it is provided with the most able tutors."

The act rescinding the donations stipulated that the funds be retained in the state treasury and be distributed only by enactment for the advancement of literature in the several counties, and for no other purpose. It was not until 1811 that the General Assembly enacted legislation for the distribution of funds to the counties for the establishment of academies. An allocation of \$800 for Kent County was made to Washington College, with the understanding that the funds would be used to conduct an instructional program provided by the academies in other counties.

Was William Smith a Tory?

By Mary Ruth Yoe '73

Was Rev. William Smith a Tory? The Washington College catalog maintains that he was a friend of George Washington and presumably of the colonial cause. Indeed the General subscribed fifty guineas to the College and gave his permission for "the College at Chester" to receive his name. Some historians, however, claim that Dr. Smith was the author of a 1776 pamphlet written as a rebuttal to Tom Paine's *Common Sense*. The work, *Plain Truth*, flew the English flag proudly: "American independence is as illusory, ruinous, and impracticable, as a liberal reconciliation with Great Britain is safe, honorable, and expedient."

If the good Reverend did write those words, he was mindful enough of expediency to be on the winning side at war's end.

Washington College historians would be happy to describe an educator who spent nine years in the Eastern Shore river town singlemindedly working toward an ideal he had described thirty years earlier in an educational Utopia called *A General Idea of the College of Mirania*. But throughout his time there his goal was to regain the College of Philadelphia's charter and thus to regain his old position as provost.

Smith had a consuming interest in another project as well. While in England during the 1750s and 1760s—trips prompted by political disagreements with the Pennsylvania legislators—he had been awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by the universities of Oxford, Aberdeen and Trinity. With such credentials, Smith thought he was well qualified to become America's first Anglican bishop. Prominent in church politics, he called a conference of church dignitaries in Chestertown, where the Protestant Episcopal Church of America received its name. But secular foibles—including some ill-timed drunken high jinks—kept the clergyman from the cathedral.

One contemporary, Ezra Stiles of Yale, called

Smith's moral character "very exceptionable and unbecoming of a minister of God." Worse, "when angry, he swore in the most extravagant manner." Even Smith's deathbed manner flouted contemporary religious etiquette: "He never spoke upon any subject connected with religion..., nor was there a Bible or Prayer Book to be seen in his room."

Religious character aside, Smith had his critics. He was "haughty," "slovenly ... often offensive in company," and "toward the end of his life, an habitual drunkard." The final damning fact? None of his children attended his funeral.

Once the funds had been secured, Smith turned his attention to making Kent County's parish school into a college. In two years the former grammar school acquired more than 140 pupils, and in 1783 Gov. William Paca laid the first building's cornerstone.

The four-story structure rivaled Princeton's Nassau Hall and had a cost of \$28,000, a large sum in post-Revolution days. While a thousand ten-penny nails could be had for twelve shillings and six pence, the cost of labor—and of Dr. Smith's prescription for smooth labor relations—was more expensive.

One account explains the transplanted Scot's incentive plan this way: "The Reverend William Smith was the moving spirit of those early days. He brought the workmen for the College building by boat from Philadelphia to Appoquinomink Hundred, then to Chestertown in huge wagons. The difficulty of keeping these laborers content far away from their homes and families must have been great; but Dr. Smith was a profound student of human nature, besides being a most eminent, divine, and successful educator and his method of overcoming this difficulty is roseate and effectual."

He used rum. The Washington College ledger shows seven entries, totaling 165 half-gallons and one barrel of rum, along with a lone bottle of wine (perhaps for the foreman), a cost of forty-three pounds, four shillings, two pence. The historian who made the tally dryly concludes, "From this it will be seen that erection of the building required three years." **W**

1819

JULY 17 • STUDENTS
FILING INTO THE NEWLY-
ORGANIZED DINING
HALL FIND NEW RULES
POSTED: "THERE SHALL
BE NO RUNNING ABOUT
IN THE DINING ROOM,
NOR ANY PULLING OR
THROWING VICTUALS
DURING MEALS. AS
SOON AS THANKS SHALL
HAVE BEEN RETURNED
AFTER MEAT, THE
STUDENTS SHALL LEAVE
THE DINING ROOM IN
THE MOST RESPECTFUL
ORDER, AND SHALL NOT
CARRY OUT WITH THEM
ANY VICTUALS, NOR ANY
PROPERTY BELONGING
TO THE STEWARD."

Smith's Final Years

ALTHOUGH HIS IMPACT on the educational direction of Washington College was tremendous, the business of the College was only one of Smith's many interests during his tenure. He was one of the founders of the American Philosophical Society, organized the Grand Masonic Lodge of Maryland, and presided over a convention of Episcopal leaders at which the denomination was formally renamed "The Protestant Episcopal Church." The meeting was held in what is now the Emmanuel P.E. Church of Chestertown.

Smith moved back to Philadelphia to advance his educational career, but his appointment as provost at the College of Philadelphia lasted only a year. When the College was absorbed by the University of Pennsylvania in 1791, Smith was not retained.

He spent his final years preaching to various groups, especially Masonic Lodges and church conventions, continued to speculate with land and canal schemes, and took a hand in Indian affairs and water works improvements for Philadelphia. He died in May 1803 at the age of seventy-five. His official biographer, Horace Wemyss Smith, a great-grandson, said of him: "He never threw the first stone. But if any one threw a first stone at him, he did not always stop with a second stone in return." **[W]**

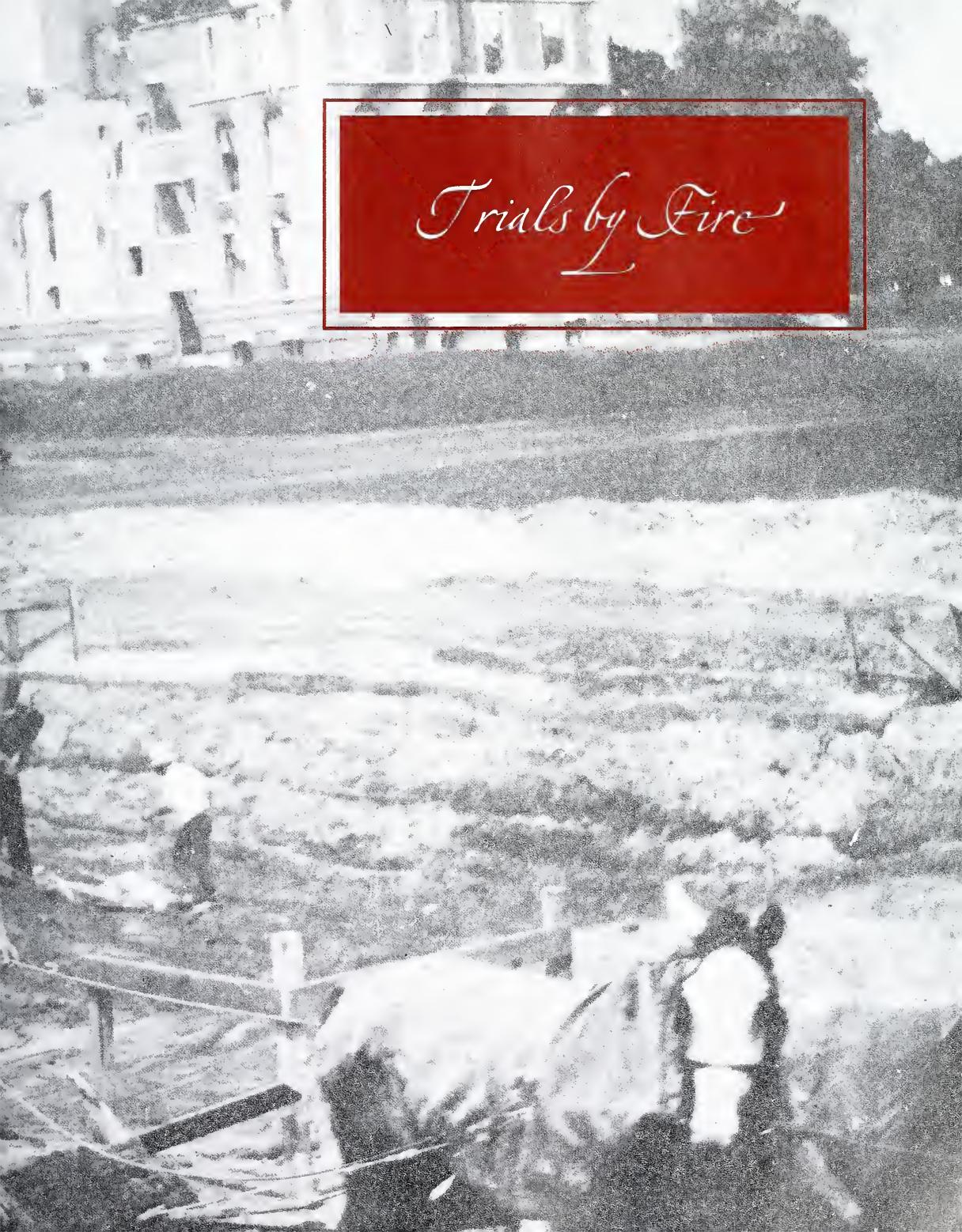
1820

APRIL 23 • TRUSTEES
ANNOUNCE THAT
BOARD WILL BE
LOWERED TO \$100 A
YEAR.

1821

MARCH 9 • AFTER
MARCHING TO THE
COURTHOUSE WITH
THEIR PROFESSORS AND
STEWARD, STUDENTS
ARE INFORMED BY
COLLEGE BOARD
PRESIDENT THOMAS
WORRELL THAT THEIR
COMPLAINTS ABOUT
FOOD SERVED IN THE
DINING HALL WILL BE
ATTENDED TO.





Trials by Fire

Rising from the Ashes

Perhaps what is most remarkable about Washington College is its tenacity. The College's only building burned to the ground in 1827. The original William Smith Hall was destroyed in 1916. The destruction of facilities and equipment was compounded by the devastating loss of the school's earliest records. Bolstered by its connection to the birth of the new nation and its faith in its mission as a small liberal arts college, Washington College persevered.

A Great and Tragic Blow: The Fire of 1827

Overleaf: To minimize the threat of yet another fire, the College builds a separate heating plant to serve all campus facilities. The water tower, Cain Gymnasium, and the burned shell of William Smith Hall are visible in the background.

ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 11, 1827, a fire nearly closed Washington College forever. In the Friday, January 12, 1827 Board minutes, the calamity was distilled to simple sentences: "Yesterday evening about half past seven o'clock it was discovered that the College was on fire. The fire commenced among a parcel of corn blades belonging to Mrs. Sarah B. Blake and then in the cellar under the common hall. In a few hours the whole building was destroyed." Mrs. Blake was appointed the stewardess at the College in March 1826. She occupied the quarters vacated by her predecessor and was entitled to use the nearby grounds to raise vegetables.

Years later, in a brief account of the College, Rowland Watts, Class of 1886, suggested that the blaze was unintentional: "The building is supposed

1823

OCTOBER 11 • REV
WATERS' TERM AS
PRINCIPAL EXPIRES AND
HE DEPARTS COLLEGE.



Workers digging the foundation for the original William Smith Hall in 1905 uncovered this iron spike, believed to have been part of the original College building erected in 1784 and destroyed by fire in 1827.

to have been accidentally set on fire by one of the students who went into a basement room to get some fodder which was stored there. It is thought that the fodder was ignited by a lamp which he carried in his hand or by sparks from his pipe."

The day on which the fire occurred, College President Timothy Clowes was away from the campus engaged in performing a marriage ceremony. As he was returning home, he saw the glow of the fire on the horizon. By the time he reached the campus, it was too late to save all his belongings. Clowes's loss in the mutilation of books was near \$1,000. Joseph Duncan, the vice principal, suffered the heaviest loss, as the fire consumed every article of property he possessed. Presumably lost—if they still existed—were the air pump and opti-

1827

JANUARY 11 • FIRE,
BELIEVED TO HAVE
STARTED IN A PARCEL OF
CORN BLADES
BELONGING TO THE
STEWARD, DESTROYS
ORIGINAL COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATION AND
CLASSROOM BUILDING,
WHICH SAT ATOP THE
HILL; STUDENTS
CONTINUE THEIR
STUDIES IN TOWN AND
THE COLLEGE APPEALS
TO THE MARYLAND
LEGISLATURE FOR AID.

1829

PETER CLARK IS NAMED
PRINCIPAL OF THE
COLLEGE.

cal instruments purchased by the College with the financial contribution made by General George Washington.

The Board wasted very little time in providing accommodations for the principal and his family and for the continuation of classes. An agreement was made to rent a house in Chestertown for the year 1827 at a cost of \$130, of which \$50 was to be expended for the repair of the building.

The *Chestertown Telegraph* reported that Dr. Clowes had been commissioned to seek aid from the liberal citizens of the United States. Part of his assignment was to proceed to Washington to contact prominent people there. Evidently that mission failed, as there is no evidence to indicate otherwise. In the meantime, a petition was submitted to the General Assembly requesting legislative approval of a grant for the erection of a new building. The concluding paragraphs of that petition read: It is one of the oldest literary establishments in the State. It is also the Alma Mater of many of its most distinguished sons. It is the only College in the extensive peninsula East of the Chesapeake Bay. The benefactions of individuals to a very large amount have been given under the pledge of state protection and support. It has had to encounter great and peculiar difficulties by fire, it addresses itself at this moment, with peculiar claims, to the liberal sympathies of the Legislature.

A resolution to appropriate \$10,000 for the rebuilding of the College was introduced in the House of Delegates, but its sponsors were unable to secure the necessary votes for its passage. Unable to obtain assistance to proceed with a rebuilding program, the College was destined to survive on the most meager resources, conducting classes for the next twenty years in rented houses—including the Custom House—in Chestertown.



Seventeen years after the original College building was destroyed by fire, Middle Hall—erected on the same site but much smaller in size—was opened to accommodate boarders and classes. The Middle Hall cornerstone was removed in 1981, revealing a metal time capsule containing eight coins and a badly deteriorated bundle of papers.

Friday January 15th 1897
At a special meeting of the Board of Directors
the officers of the 3rd Battalion were elected
Dr. James W. Atkinson was elected
President
Archibald Campbell
Joseph C. Johnson
Joseph C. Johnson
George W. Thompson
Dr. J. W. Atkinson
Dr. George W. Thompson
Joseph C. Johnson
John C. Johnson
John C. Johnson

Yester evenning I went to the post office
to see how the 1st of Oct. would be, and
the post master told me that the 1st of Oct.
will be late over to the 2nd of Oct. and
then in the 2nd week of Oct. and then
he said that the post office would be
closed.

Original Board

minutes of January 12, 1827.

noting: "Yesterday evening about half past

seven o'clock it was discovered that the College was on fire."

In the meantime, the Visitors and Governors continued to direct their efforts to the problem of reconstructing the building. A committee was appointed to examine the condition of the walls of the two wings to determine whether or not either wing might be rebuilt. After extensive examination, it was agreed that this was not possible. The committee was then authorized to sell the bricks from the ruins at a price of four dollars per thousand. In addition, an advertisement was placed in the local paper requesting those persons who had removed property from the College premises to return the same.

The years between the fire and the erection of Middle Hall in 1844 were more than once perilous to the possible future of the College. The devoted enthusiasm of a few men restored the spirits of their fellows, though moments of optimism in the Board and faculty were few and far between.

At the annual meeting of the
American Association for the
Advancement of Science, held in
Washington, D. C., on December 28,
1887, Dr. T. H. Huxley, president
of the British Association, was
elected president of the
American Association for the
Advancement of Science, for the
year 1888. Dr. G. F. Dole,
of the Boston Society for
Natural History, was elected
vice-president, and Dr. W. H. Dall,
of the U. S. Fish Commission, was
elected treasurer. Dr. J. C. Branner,
of the U. S. Geological Survey, was
elected secretary. Dr. J. C. Branner,
of the U. S. Geological Survey, was
elected secretary.

the Fish
S. S. 4
the War Department

1832
MARCH 10 •
RICHARD RINGGOLD
ESQ., IS NAMED TO
SUCCEED CLARK AS
PRINCIPAL

MARCH 10 •

RICHARD RINGGOLD
ESQ., IS NAMED TO
SUCCEED CLARK AS
PRINCIPAL

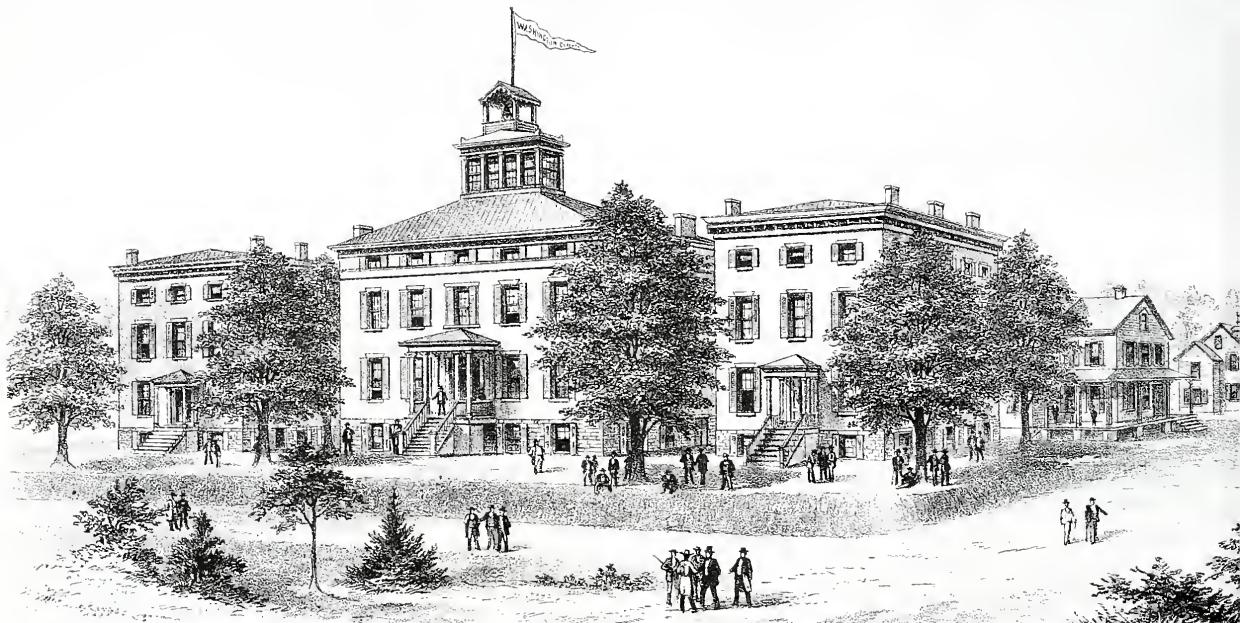
1837

AUGUST 5 • THE
BOARD OF VISITORS
AND GOVERNORS
AGREES TO INCREASE
STUDENT VACATION
PERIODS, REASONING
“THAT IN THE HEAT
OF SUMMER THE
BODIES AND MINDS OF
PUPILS REQUIRE
PROLONGED
RELAXATION, AND
THAT THEIR PROGRESS
IS SO COMPARATIVELY
SLOW AND
INCONSIDERABLE AS
TO RENDER THE LOSS
OF TIME BY VACATION
UNIMPORTANT.”

VACATION CONSISTS OF FOUR WEEKS OF SUMMER, A WEEK DURING CHRISTMAS, AND ANOTHER WEEK DURING EASTER.

1844

MAY 4 •
CORNERSTONE IS
LAID FOR WHAT WILL
BE MIDDLE HALL;
ELIJAH REYNOLDS OF
PORT DEPOSIT, MD, IS
THE ARCHITECT.



By 1860, Middle Hall—the center building with a pennant flying from the cupola—was joined by East and West halls, as seen in this engraving from the 1890 catalog.

The Second Great Fire: William Smith Hall Burns

ALIGHT SNOW WAS FALLING upon the already whitened ground in the early morning hours of Sunday, January 16, 1916, when James Lecates—the watchman of the Pennsylvania Railroad yard—spied an orange glow in the direction of Washington College. Sensing calamity, Lecates sounded an engine whistle that tore the silence over sleeping Chestertown.

About the same time, William J. Wallace, president of the College sophomore class, was awake in his Middle Hall room helping a sick roommate when, looking out a window, he saw flames leaping from the rear side of the northern wing of William Smith Hall.

Wallace's shouts woke everyone in Middle Hall and other students quickly roused classmates and professors living in East and West halls. Within half an hour a crowd of students and townspeople—alerted by the locomotive whistle and the subsequent ringing of church bells—had gathered around Smith Hall. Flames, which apparently had originated in the janitor's basement utility room, spread throughout the structure so quickly that by the time the volunteer fire company reached campus, Smith Hall was nearly fully enveloped.

Some students tried connecting the fire hoses in Middle, East and West halls in order to direct water onto the blaze, but they were unable to coax anything from the pipes. Dragging the hose to the town water plugs at the foot of the campus, students were dismayed to discover that the fittings were not compatible.

Meanwhile, College President James W. Cain and a few students attempted to enter the building by the front steps. The heat foiled that attempt. At the rear of the building, Dr. J.S.W. Jones and student Donald Tydings succeeded in rescuing the large oil painting of William Smith, founder of the College for whom the building was named, from a rear wall of the auditorium stage. In addition to the valuable painting, four mahogany chairs located on the auditorium stage and a chapel Bible were pulled from the fire.

Heavy winds from the south steered the flames in the direction of the new \$50,000 gymnasium. Local firemen, sensing that Smith Hall could not be saved, turned a water hose onto the gym and, aided by the continuing snowfall, kept a second structure from catching fire.

As daybreak revealed, all that remained of William Smith Hall—only nine years old and the architectural and academic centerpiece of the campus—was a smoldering shell of brick and granite.

To a writer for *The Enterprise*, a county newspaper, Smith Hall resembled “one of the ruined piles of French and Belgian masonry that stand in the path of the German army in their march through those war-devastated countries.”

1845

JANUARY • FACULTY
AND STUDENTS MOVE
INTO MIDDLE HALL.

1847

FEBRUARY 22 •
STUDENTS FORM THE
MT. VERNON
LITERARY SOCIETY,
ONE OF THE EARLIEST
COLLEGIATE LITERARY
ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE STATE.

1854

TO ACCOMMODATE A
GROWING STUDENT
BODY, COLLEGE
ERECTS EAST HALL
AND WEST HALL.
PRESIDENT RINGGOLD
RETIRSES AND THE REV.
DR. FRANCIS WATERS
RETURNS AS
PRESIDENT.

1855

JANUARY 16 •
SCHOLARSHIP
BENEFICIARIES ARE
CHARGED \$3 A YEAR
FOR WASHING, FIRES,
LIGHTS, AND
FURNITURE FOR
ROOMS.

1856

DECEMBER 16 •
TRUSTEES AGREE TO
SUPPLY STEWARDESS
WITH A COW.



Among the few mementos saved from the William Smith fire are (top) the charred pages of the Bible used during chapel meetings, and (bottom) a pair of light bulbs. The charred pages of the Bible were used in the last meeting in the old West Hall chapel before it was moved to the new William Smith Hall in 1907.

College President James W. Cain rescued the book from the 1916 fire.

The financial loss of William Smith Hall was put at \$71,000 (\$53,000 would be recovered by insurance). Except for the few items saved, everything inside was destroyed. Classroom desks and chairs, dozens of settees, shelves, cabinets, tables, roll-top desks and reading tables—most of them oak or maple—were reduced to ashes.

The blaze was so intense that eight class shields—metal plaques listing names of past graduating class members—had been twisted into almost unrecognizable lumps. (Within days after the fire, Cain, with all the other demands now upon him, sent personal notes to alumni asking if they would pay to replace the shields.)

Because Smith Hall was the heart and brains of the campus, it housed under one roof all the accouterments that make a college. And all were lost: a dozen microscopes and other apparatus essential to biological and chemical inquiry in the laboratories; display cabinets and 500 books in the bookstore; 125 hymnals and an upright piano in the auditorium; a mineral display case and a bust of George Washington in the corridor; 100 tons of coal and a heating pump in the basement; school stationery, filing cabinets, clocks, rugs and a dozen framed pictures in the administrative offices; 3,500 volumes of books in the library.

Those items could be replaced. What could not were records and artifacts unique to Washington College. Despite the burning of the original College building and all its contents in 1827, school officials and friends had managed to accumulate some important documents pertaining to the institution's founding.

Before the ashes of Smith Hall had cooled, Cain and the trustees, who had discussed routine College business in Cain's office until ten o'clock the night of the fire, held an emergency meeting in the gymnasium. The group quickly agreed to rebuild Smith Hall as soon as possible. In the meantime, the gym would be outfitted as temporary administration headquarters and classes would be held, if necessary, in the old wooden gym. The board also agreed to suspend classes and to send students home. The fire destroyed the heating plant and the Hill dorms were too cold for comfort. Students were to return in two weeks when a new system was expected to be in operation. Looking ahead to June, Cain concluded that commencement would have to be held in the gym.

Notices were sent to alumni over the signature of James A. Pearce, the Board chairman, asking them to attend an emergency meeting in Baltimore's Rennert Hotel on January 28. "This is the greatest crisis in the affairs of the college during the memory of any man now living," the elderly Pearce wrote.

Even before the fire, Pearce, son of the late Senator Pearce and a student in the College preparatory department in 1853, had spoken of resigning from the Board. He had been appointed to the vacancy created by his father's death in 1863 and had been active in College matters ever since. He agreed to stay on during the rebuilding period, but on occasion the stress of not knowing if the Maryland legislature would continue to aid the College wore down his stamina. "We must

1857

MARCH 26 • CITING A
"NUMBER OF DISEASES
PREVAILING IN OUR
SECTION," STUDENTS
ASK PERMISSION TO
VACATE SCHOOL
IMMEDIATELY; BOARD
REFUSES "ON GROUND
NO DISEASE PREVALENT
AROUND COLLEGE."

1860

THE REV. ANDREW J.
SUTTON HEADS
COLLEGE DURING
CIVIL WAR PERIOD;
JUDGE EZEKIEL F.
CHAMBERS SERVES AS
PRESIDENT OF THE
BOARD; TUITION AND
BOARD RANGES
BETWEEN \$175 AND
\$185.

DECEMBER 11 •
BOARD INSTRUCTS
PRESIDENT SUTTON TO
HIRE A TUTOR
QUALIFIED TO DRILL A
STUDENT COMPANY IN
MILITARY TACTICS.

1861

APRIL • GENERAL
ASSEMBLY PASSES JOINT
RESOLUTION NUMBER
6, GRANTING THE
COLLEGE 75 MUSKETS
AND ACCOUTERMENTS
"FIT FOR PARADE."



William Smith Hall, shown in this popular postcard image, was rebuilt to the same specifications and reopened in 1918.

recognize and the State must recognize that we are essentially a State College—dependent upon the State for actual existence,” Pearce wrote in July to fellow trustee Harry J. Hopkins of Annapolis. “Personally, at my age, I cannot continue to bear the strain and responsibility of constant harassing debt,” he added.

Hopkins, who was president of Farmers National Bank, tried to reassure Pearce. He wrote: “I realize that our College is in a very crucial period of its existence. We have had many setbacks, but when you stop and consider for a moment the Institution as it is today, and what it was a few years ago, there is awakened in my heart and mind the utmost gratitude and delight at the progress that has been made.”

Pearce’s worries about College finances were not entirely groundless. Newspaper articles in *The (Baltimore) Sun* in early 1916 questioned the wisdom of the legislature giving money to Washington College, St. John’s College, and other private schools around the state. The paper noted that of the 126 students enrolled in Washington College, fifty-one were residents of Kent County with many others from nearby Eastern Shore counties. “It is reasonable to ask whether it is sound public policy for a large sum of the money of the whole people to be devoted to the maintenance of a college which serves principally the people of one small county and its immediate environs,” wrote *The Sun*.

William Wallace, Witness to History

For William J. Wallace, the student credited with first spotting the William Smith Hall fire from his dorm room, the conflagration he viewed that cold January 1916 night would not be his last.

Wallace, a Church Hill native, joined the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after he graduated from Washington College in June 1918. He was commissioned second lieutenant the next month and received his flight training at Pensacola, Florida, in 1921. He served with the Second Marine Brigade in Santo Domingo until his return to the States in 1924. In the late 1920s he was a squadron commander in China. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Wallace was among those defending Ewa Airfield on Oahu. He was promoted to the rank of colonel and was commanding officer of air groups at the Battle of Midway and on Guadalcanal, where he was wounded. Finally, as a lieutenant general, Wallace was commanding general of Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, in Santa Ana, California. He retired in 1952 and died in 1977.

Wallace was one of the most decorated military veterans in College history. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, a Presidential Unit Citation with Star, an Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Star, an American Defense Service Medal, an American Campaign Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal.

In June 1948, Wallace returned to his alma mater where he delivered the commencement address and was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. **W**



Major General William Wallace, left, who was among the first to spot the 1916 William Smith Hall fire, returned to his alma mater on June 6, 1948 to deliver the commencement address and to receive an honorary degree, presented here by College President Gilbert W. Mead.

Variations of that argument and its periodic success at swaying legislative appropriations had plagued Washington College for more than a century. But in 1916 state lawmakers approved expenditures to the College totaling \$28,275 for maintenance and \$10,000 for helping rebuild Smith Hall for each of the next two years.

Cain was so busy dealing with contractors, insurance agents and salvage collectors and preparing for commencement that he arranged to have a substitute teacher take over his teaching responsibilities. Cain was faced with another fire of sorts—criticism by some students of how the Chestertown volunteer firemen handled the January 16 blaze was threatening to sour town-gown relations.

In the February issue of the student publication *The Collegian*, firefighters were blamed in part for not getting the situation under control:

“About an hour after the alarm had been given, some firemen arrived pulling a hose truck. One truck had been left at the lower end of the campus by some who were apparently more anxious to witness the glorious sight than to aid in extinguishing the fire. There was absolutely no system in the work of the volunteer firemen of Chestertown; every one was a boss, some did not know what to do themselves, and were nervously suggesting what should be done by others. Some of the students got the hose truck which had been left by some over-enthusiast at the foot of campus, and brought it where it could be of some use.”

Determined not to infringe upon *The Collegian*’s editorial prerogatives, Cain wrote the publication a letter designed to soothe both sides. “If the town apparatus seemed slow in arriving, it should be borne in mind that the hour was most unfavorable for the quick assembling of men, and that perhaps our anxiety made the time seem longer than it actually was,” he wrote. “If there appeared to be a lack of a directive hand, may this not have been due to a belief that, the College being a community in itself, some one in authority in the College, myself perhaps, should direct the work?”

The next issue of *The Collegian* carried an editorial note commending the fire department.

Bad luck seemed to follow Dr. Cain that year, even when he traveled in October to Baltimore to attend the Washington-Gallaudet football game, which Washington lost. Cain was struck by a car owned by the Monumental Brewing Company. Slightly shaken and bruised, he was helped across the street to the Remmert Hotel where he dusted himself off.

By December construction of the new William Smith Hall had reached the first floor and Cain, anxious that work was not moving as quickly as he had hoped, urged the contractor to employ more men.



The College completed extensive renovations of William Smith Hall in 1998, bringing the 75-year-old building's mechanical systems up to date and preserving historic detail.

The rebuilding of a nearly identical Smith Hall included two features not in the original structure. One walk-in safe was installed on the first floor and another in the basement. And on top of the roof a cupola was built. While work progressed on Smith Hall under a contract with Henry S. Ripple, a new heating plant was erected and outfitted in a new and separate building by contractor Clarence E. Stubbs. The final cost of the entire project, including a \$3,500 hot water system for the gym and the dormitories, was \$76,000.

In early February 1918, students and the administration moved into the new William Smith Hall. On the morning of June 19, the College witnessed its first commencement in the new structure. **W**

The Drums of War

When war was waged on American soil and abroad, the effects reverberated on campus.

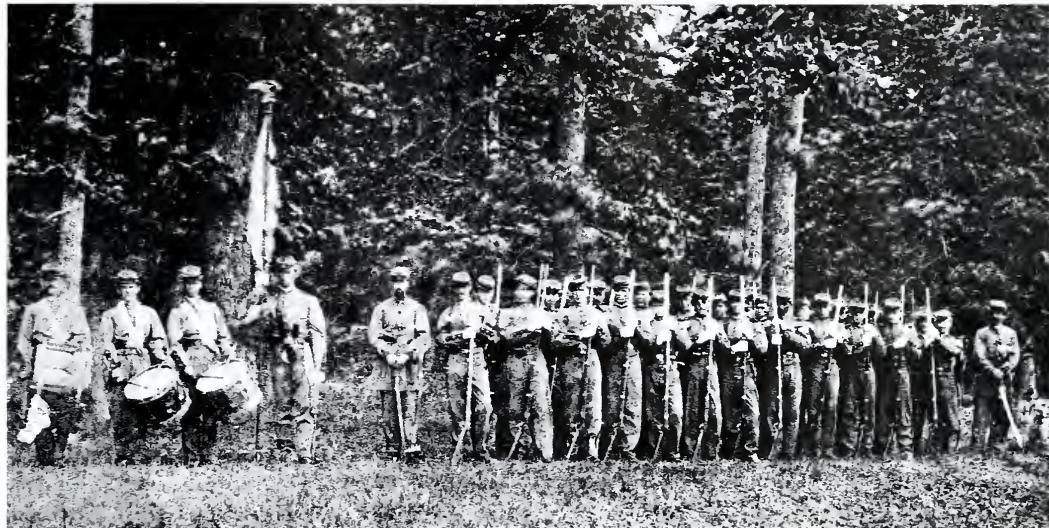
During the Civil War the loyalites of College trustees were questioned by Union soldiers. With each World War the College did everything it could to prepare young men to contribute to the war efforts, even as student enrolments dropped perilously low. Just as it happened all over America, the return of GIs at the end of World War II ushered in an era of unprecedented growth and prosperity for Washington College.

College Officials Profess Unionist Alliance

BY THE TIME South Carolina troops fired upon Federal soldiers inside Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, many Kent County residents—including some students at Washington College—had been honing their military skills.

That year, to celebrate the anniversary of George Washington's birth on February 22, members of four volunteer companies gathered at ten o'clock under a cloudless but breezy morning sky and paraded through downtown Chestertown. The soldierly display included Reed's Rifles, the Chester Blues, the Cavalry Company of the Columbian Hussars, and the Washington College Cadets.

Accompanied by the Kennedyville Brass Band, the parade stopped briefly outside town at White House Farm, where owner Judge James B. Ricaud—a



The years before and during the Civil War saw many Kent County men, including Washington College students, participate in paramilitary organizations similar to Reed's Rifles, pictured here on a farm somewhere outside Chestertown.

College trustee who had received a degree at Washington College in 1846—greeted them and gave them refreshments. At mid-afternoon the men returned to formation and marched to the Washington College campus, where they spent the rest of the day in drilling.

Despite the excitement of having a brass band and uniformed soldiers on campus, scholarly pursuits continued as usual. That same evening, a Dr. Cox of Easton came to the College to deliver an address at the invitation of the Mount Vernon Literary Society. Dr. Cox chose to title his talk “Demagogues and Their Arts,” a subject the students no doubt found appropriate to the troubled times.

At the start of the Civil War, Washington College found itself in transition. Unable to persuade Dr. Francis Waters not to resign as president at the end of 1860, the Board found a successor in the Reverend Andrew J. Sutton, the school’s vice-principal and the instructor of ancient and modern languages since 1856. The Board agreed to pay him an annual salary of \$1,000 and to provide him

with the use of either the north or the south end of East Hall as a residence.

The College had enrolled about forty students, all but a dozen from Kent County. Including Sutton, who also taught moral and mental science, there were seven members of the faculty. Judge James A. Pearce, a United States senator and a longtime Board member, taught law until illness left him bedridden in late 1862. He died on December 20 and was the first to be buried in the new Chester Cemetery at the edge of town. His son, James A. Pearce Jr., had attended the College as a preparatory student and taught Latin and Greek. Upon his father's death, he was elected to the Board. Also on the faculty was the respected and elderly physician, Dr. Peregrine Wroth, an 1803 graduate who returned to his *alma mater* late in life to teach chemistry and geology and to serve on the Board.

Perhaps the best-known member of the College Board was its president, Ezekiel Forman Chambers. Born in Chestertown on February 28, 1788, he was graduated from Washington College at the age of seventeen. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1808.

Chambers was active in the local militia and attained the rank of captain when the Battle of Caulk's Field was fought in the War of 1812. A member of the Maryland Senate from 1822 to 1825 and of the Senate of the United States from 1826 to 1834, he resigned his seat to accept the appointment as chief judge of the Second Judicial District of Maryland and member of the Maryland Court of Appeals. In 1864, he was the Democratic candidate for governor of Maryland, but was defeated by Thomas Swan, the candidate of the Unionist Party. He was the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale University in 1833 and from the College of Delaware in 1852.

During the Civil War, Chambers was assailed by local Unionists, who questioned whether the judge was truly faithful to the North or harbored sympathies with the South. He was accused of making a secession speech to a gathering of citizens at the court house on February 9, 1861, and wrote a fourteen-page pamphlet defending his position.

At a Union convention in Baltimore, Chambers said: "I am for the Union just so long as it can be maintained consistently with the honor and dignity of Maryland. Is there a right-thinking man who can consent upon questions of honor to regulate and control his actions by pecuniary considerations? Or is there a Nation which could consent to fill in the eyes of the world, a position at once dishonorable and cowardly for the sake of filling its treasury with gold and silver?"

Like many Eastern Shoremen, Chambers found himself caught between conflicting loyalties. Maryland stayed with the North, but its agrarian population—including the Shore—had more in common with the South than it had with, for example, New England. Presumably, most of the students at Washington College—being native Shoremen—held similar beliefs.



Ezekiel F. Chambers, a prominent lawyer and United States Senator, served as president of the Board of Visitors and Governors from 1843 until his death in 1867.

1861

FEBRUARY 22 • ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, A GATHERING OF LOCAL UNION MILITARY CORPS, INCLUDING THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE CADETS, MARCHES THROUGH TOWN AND DRILLS ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS.

MAY 16 • BOARD ADMONISHES STEWARD NOT TO USE PROFANE LANGUAGE WHEN SPEAKING TO STUDENTS.

OCTOBER 7 • FEDERAL SOLDIERS OF THE 2ND EASTERN SHORE MARYLAND VOLUNTEERS ENCAMP FOR FOUR MONTHS ON DR. WHALAND'S FARM AT EDGE OF CHESTERTOWN.

1862

NOVEMBER 24 • COST OF BOARD PER SESSION IS \$55 FOR SUMMER AND \$70 FOR WINTER.

DECEMBER 20 • JUDGE JAMES ALFRED PEARCE, COLLEGE TRUSTEE AND U. S. SENATOR WHO TAUGHT LAW AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE, DIES IN CHESTERTOWN; HE IS THE FIRST TO BE BURIED IN THE NEW CHESTER CEMETERY.

A Triple Hanging

One of the most curious events in pre-Civil War Kent County history occurred at mid-morning on Friday, August 8, 1851, when three men sentenced to death for murdering a family near the Sassafras River were hanged on a farm three-quarters of a mile outside what then were the limits of Chestertown.

Accompanied by two troops of armed dragoons from Kent County, another troop from Queen Anne's County, a civil corps of two hundred men and a crowd estimated to be in the thousands, the three prisoners were taken in an open cart from the Chestertown jail, past the location for the new Chester Cemetery, and to a farm where a scaffold with three nooses awaited them.

The ropes were adjusted around the men's necks and hoods were pulled over their heads. At twenty-one minutes before eleven, the traps were opened and the three men fell earthward. Two died instantly, but the noose of the third man slipped and he fell to the ground. When he gained consciousness, he was taken back to the top of the scaffold and allowed to sit in a chair as his two companions were pronounced dead and their bodies removed. In shock and suffering considerable pain, he asked for and got water, but was unable to drink. At twenty minutes past eleven, another noose was placed around his neck, the trap was sprung and he fell again, this time to his death.

What has this unusual incident got to do with Washington College? Four of the principals involved were members of the College Board of Visitors and Governors: Ezekiel F. Chambers, an 1805 College graduate and president of the Board, was the judge in the trial; James B. Ricaud, a Board member who was involved in the rebuilding of the College in 1844, was one of the prosecutors; Sen. James A. Pearce, a longtime Board member and one of the best known politicians in the county, was among the defense attorneys; and Dr. John Whaland, a trustee whose son Charles graduated from the College, owned the farm where the hangings took place. **W**



John Whaland, whose portrait was painted circa 1825, was a College trustee who owned the farm on the outskirts of Chestertown where three convicted murderers were hanged in 1851.

In 1861, the Maryland legislature approved a resolution directing the state adjutant general to send Washington College "seventy-five cadets' muskets and accoutrements, including percussion caps, together with twelve sergeants' swords and twelve lieutenants' swords, fit for parade." The catalog for 1862-63 lists a military department, where instruction in drill "is given to a limited extent to those who desire it." Since the number of muskets appropriated by the state was nearly twice the school's enrollment, it is hard to guess what was done with the surplus.

At the war's outbreak, slaves comprised nineteen percent of Kent County's 13,344 residents. Of the entire Eastern Shore, seventeen percent were slaves and

of the state, twelve percent. Even those locally who might ultimately support President Lincoln's emancipation of slaves did so under the condition that slave holders be compensated for their loss of property.

John W. Crisfield, a College alumnus who was elected from the Eastern Shore to Lincoln's special session of Congress in 1863, believed that while secession was illegal, the Constitution placed the decision of what to do with slaves solely in the hands of the states.

Even those who professed their staunch Unionism sometimes had their true colors questioned. Judge Ricaud, a College trustee who in 1862 was named to oversee the Kent County militia draft, was among several men who were arrested a year later by Union soldiers sent from Baltimore to ensure that rebel sympathizers did not influence county elections. The men were released and their arrest was attributed to an embarrassing overzealousness on the part of some Union officials.

While the war ravaged other parts of the state, the Eastern Shore remained relatively undisturbed. Political sniping aside, life in Kent County moved along almost normally. The draw section of the Chester River bridge was widened to allow passage of bigger vessels and townspeople argued about whose cattle were left to graze on the court house green.

Well into the war, a Chestertown newspaper commented on the pace of local business: "It is rather surprising that a spirit of enterprise should have seized our citizens in the midst of the present unfortunate condition of the country, but we doubt whether this has affected unfavorably the pecuniary resources of the people of this community. The large crops and good prices realized last year, and the equally abundant harvest of the present season, have maintained the agricultural community in easy circumstances, and as the mercantile and mechanical interests are regulated in no small degree by the prosperity of the agricultural, they have enjoyed a corresponding measure of success."

The College, attempting to turn what sometimes was a geographical liability into an asset, touted its location in newspaper ads:

By its elevated, healthful and beautiful situation; its remoteness from the track of War; its daily communication with Baltimore and Philadelphia, and its very low charges for board and Tuition; this Institution, now in its 83rd year, offers advantages not surpassed by any similar College.

It cost \$145 a year to board at the College and an additional \$30 or \$40, depending upon the class grade, for tuition.

The annual commencement exercises were public affairs and lasted three days, beginning with the examination of classes and an evening meeting of the Mount Vernon Literary Society. On one occasion the younger James A. Pearce

1864

DECEMBER 1 •
PRESIDENT SUTTON
TELLS BOARD THAT
WHILE HE WAS IN
BALTIMORE
RECENTLY, "MUCH
INJURY" TO WEST
HALL WAS DONE BY
STUDENTS, WHO ARE
ORDERED TO PAY
FOR REPAIRS.

1865

APRIL • UNTIL THE
VERY END OF THE
CIVIL WAR,
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE ADVERTISES
IN LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS THAT ITS
"REMOTENESS FROM
THE TRACK OF THE
WAR" IS ONE OF THE
BENEFITS OF
ATTENDING THE
SCHOOL.

JULY 4 •
INDEPENDENCE DAY
PASSES IN
CHESTERTOWN
WITHOUT A SINGLE
PUBLIC OBSERVANCE;
RESIDENTS SPEND THE
DAY FISHING AND
CRABBING.

1873

AUGUST 16 •
COLLEGE TRUSTEES
ELECT WILLIAM J.
RIVERS, A PROFESSOR
AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FOR 17 YEARS, AS
PRESIDENT.

entertained the gathering with an address titled "Characteristics of Genius." The second day was reserved for the junior class exhibition—usually a play—that was so popular among townsfolk that only ticket holders were allowed entrance and children were specifically prohibited. Students were graduated on the third day with the baccalaureate address delivered by the Reverend Sutton.

Two months after the Civil War ended, the Maryland General Assembly agreed to continue financial assistance to Washington College on condition that the funds be used to pay for scholarships. Washington College, St. John's College in Annapolis, the Maryland Agricultural College in Prince George's County, and the state Law School were considered to constitute the University of Maryland.

Even with state assistance, the College suffered financial and administrative problems. Rowland Watts, Class of 1886, described the condition of the school in a brief history he wrote: "It commenced to decline under the administration of Professor Sutton. Professor Sutton was a man of excellent education and a fine gentleman, but entirely unfit to govern a college. He was afflicted by that deadly malady consumption, and at length acquired a habit of drinking to excess, thus rendering him even less capable of properly filling the position which he held."

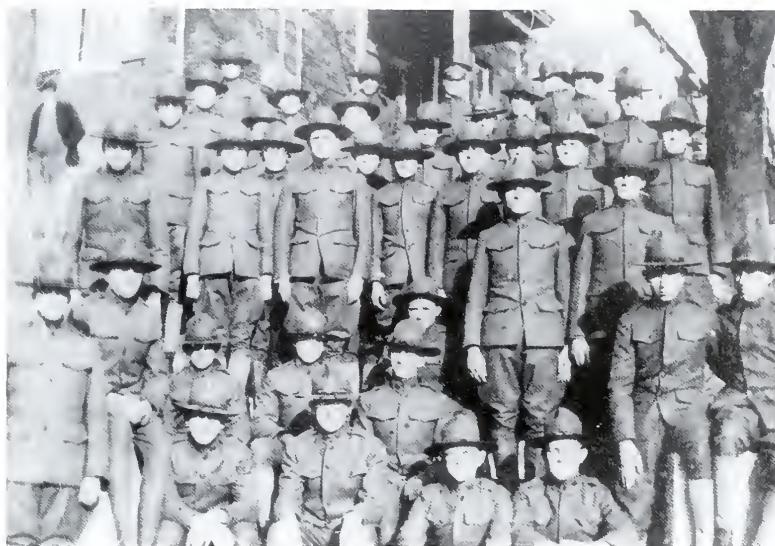
Sutton resigned on November 30, 1867, and was succeeded by Robert Carter Berkeley, who had served in the Confederate Army and was wounded in the Battle of Seven Pines in 1862.

Military Arts Offered as Nation Enters World War

THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I in 1914 in faraway Europe did not go unnoticed at Washington College. President James W. Cain, reporting to the school trustees, spoke of the sentiment that appeared to be growing in the United States favoring some form of preparedness program. He cited the establishment of camps for military instruction as well as the introduction of similar programs in many American schools. He also informed the Board that in the course of a conversation with the commander of the Maryland National Guard, the advisability of introducing some form of military instruction at the College had been suggested. Expressing his opinion on the matter, Cain wrote:

I think that much good may result to young men and incidentally to the State and Nation, from teaching them the rudiments of the military arts.

In order that this matter may be given the consideration that so serious a matter deserves, I recommend that a committee be appointed with au-



Uniformed Washington College cadets, members of the Department of Military Science and Tactics, pose on the steps leading to West Hall in 1917.

thority and instruction to consult with the State and Federal authorities and report at the next quarterly meeting.

Contacts were made with officials in Washington, but nothing came of this early recommendation. Several years later, Cain reported that the faculty had adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that the College should take whatever action toward preparedness the executives of the federal and state governments might consider helpful, recommending that the principal be instructed to ascertain what that action might be. The Board agreed that a course of military instruction should be introduced at once and requested federal authorities to detail an officer to Washington College for that purpose. It offered the use of the buildings and grounds of the College for that purpose, and it also offered to extend the use of the College grounds and buildings to the federal and state governments for such military purposes as they deemed appropriate. The principal was instructed to go to Washington to secure the necessary information to assist the Board in establishing military training at the College.

1875

JULY 14 • FOR THE SCHOLASTIC PERIOD JUST ENDING, 30 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED; HALF ATTEND THE COLLEGE ON SCHOLARSHIPS MANDATED BY STATE LAW.

1876

FEBRUARY 7 • TRUSTEES RESOLVE THAT IN ADDITION TO STUDENTS' INTELLECTUAL TRAINING, THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL IS OVERSEER OF THEIR "BODILY WELFARE AND COMFORT."

1887

DR. E. J. CLARKE, WHEN ORDERING UNIFORMS FOR THE BASEBALL TEAM, DISCOVERS THAT THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL SCHOOL COLORS; HAVING A PREFERENCE FOR MAROON AND BLACK, HE HAS THE SUITS TRIMMED WITH THOSE COLORS.

JUNE 25 • COLLEGE BOARD ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. RIVERS, EFFECTIVE IN FOUR DAYS.



*World War II veterans, some pictured here,
flooded the College at war's end.*

The catalog for 1917-18 announced the establishment of a Department of Military Science and Tactics for the ensuing year. The course consisted of military drills and classes in the theory and the art of war. Capt. John E. Ryan was appointed to direct this department. The corps was to be dressed in a uniform similar to that of the United States Army. The insignia on the uniform, however, was to be unlike that on the regular army uniforms.

At a meeting of the faculty on September 17, 1917, it was moved that recitations after dinner on Tuesday, September 22, be discontinued in order to permit the cadets under Captain Ryan to participate in a parade in Chestertown honoring those inductees departing for Camp Meade.

Schedule Accelerated with Escalation of World War II

PRESIDENT GILBERT W. MEAD advised College trustees in February 1942 that the Selective Service and the increased demand for labor in the defense industries were seriously affecting college enrollments. As many of the young men at Washington College were eligible for induction, the administration and the faculty prepared a plan to meet this crisis. A Faculty Emergency Committee, in cooperation with the Curriculum Committee and the faculty, decided to accelerate the academic program by "the shortening of vacation periods, and the consequent abbreviation of the term so as to advance graduation to May 25. This is to be followed by a summer term, opening June 8. If the war continues, and the changed program remains in force, the average student will be able to finish all his work in three years."

The summer session in 1942 was held as planned. It consisted of two five-week sessions, beginning on June 8 and running through August 15. At the close of the session, four young men, Jerome Calvert Jones, Francis Walter McNiff, Francis Hudson Mead, and William Winchester Paca Jr., received their degrees. In each case the degree enabled the men to qualify as candidates for officer training. In addition, mid-year exercises were held in January 1943 and 1944 for other students who had completed their requirements for graduation under the accelerated program. The summer session of 1942 was fairly well attended, but that for 1943 was a great disappointment. A survey made in the fall of 1943 indicated that the students expressed little interest in a summer school for 1944. In view of this, the faculty voted to go on record as opposing the continuation of the summer session.

In the fall of 1943 the faculty appointed a Post-War Plans Committee to consider a possible revision of the academic program. During the course of that academic year, the committee recommended the following, all of which were adopted:

1. Organization of the curriculum on a divisional basis
2. Adoption of the upper and lower level of classes
3. Publication of an outline of life career programs
4. Discontinuance of the accelerated program
5. Return to the requirement limiting the average student to a class load of fifteen to seventeen hours
6. Return to the practice of having only one commencement each year.

1888

JUNE 27 • ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION FORMS
WITH EBEN F. PERKINS
AS PRESIDENT.

NOVEMBER 24 •
SHOREMEN LOSE FIRST
FOOTBALL GAME IN
COLLEGE HISTORY TO
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.

1891

SEPTEMBER • COLLEGE
PRESIDENT CHARLES
W. REID PRESENTS
CONVINCING
ARGUMENTS TO
VISITORS AND
GOVERNORS THAT
FEMALE STUDENTS
SHOULD BE ADMITTED.
THE BOARD AGREES
AND WOMEN JOIN MEN
IN THE CLASSROOM
FOR THE 1891-1892
SESSION.

1895

JUNIOR CLASS
PUBLISHES *THE ALPHA*,
THE SCHOOL'S FIRST
YEARBOOK, AND
DEDICATES IT TO
COLLEGE FOUNDER
WILLIAM SMITH.

MARY L. MATTHEWS
OF KENT COUNTY IS
FIRST WOMAN TO
GRADUATE FROM THE
COLLEGE.



The College saw unprecedented growth during the post-World War II years. Acting College President Frederick G. Livingood, wearing hat, ceremonially breaks ground for the Garrett Foxwell dormitory.

The acceleration program and the induction of young men into the armed services were responsible for the small enrollment in the years 1943-44 and 1944-45. In those two years only 193 and 190 students, respectively, attended the College, the smallest enrollment in over a decade. Fortunately, the enrollment of women increased during those two years, as 105 and 118 were in attendance as compared with 88 and 72 men. This was the first time in the history of the College that more women were in attendance than men.

Anticipating an enrollment of 125 veterans when the College opened in September 1946, the administration filed an application with the Federal Housing Authority for an assignment of surplus army barracks. The application was denied and plans were then made to erect a frame dormitory that could house fifty men. In addition, a house-to-house canvass was made in Chestertown to determine the number of rooms that might be available for students not otherwise provided for on campus. By October 1946, the president could report that the frame dormitory was ready for occupancy. As the structure was to be occupied entirely by veterans, the building was named G. I. Hall.

Enrollment in 1946-47 was 511. As this number placed a heavy burden on existing classroom facilities, application was filed with the Federal Works Agency, Bureau of Community Facilities, requesting allocation of surplus army frame buildings for classroom use. Upon review and recommendation of the U. S. Office of Education, the College received 5,000 square feet of space consisting of two rectangular buildings. These were erected by government engineers during the summer of 1947 and were ready for occupancy when the fall term opened.

In 1948 the Board considered the idea of constructing a dormitory, similar in design to G. I. Hall, on a site just south of the athletic field, adjoining the Richmond property. The chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Elias W. Nuttle, proceeded with securing plans and specifications for the proposed building. The chairman of the Legal Committee, Lester Baldwin, determined that the funds derived from the Garrett Foxwell estate could be expended for this project. This building was ready for occupancy at the opening of the fall session in 1949. **W**

Immediately on the outbreak of the war, the College program was revised to meet the demands of the young men going into service, by providing an accelerated schedule, one feature of which is a ten-week summer term. The average attendance for this summer was over 100.

From President Gilbert W. Mead's "Report to the Visitors and Governors," October 10, 1942.

1896

NORMAL HALL,
DESIGNED TO HOUSE 70
WOMEN, OPENS IN TIME
FOR COLLEGE'S FIRST
RESIDENT COEDS.

1898

JUNE 15 • *THE
ENTERPRISE
NEWSPAPER*
ANNOUNCES THAT THE
COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT
DANCE WILL FEATURE
ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND
FANS FOR THE FIRST
TIME.

1889

FEBRUARY • *THE
WASHINGTON
COLLEGIAN*, THE FIRST
STUDENT NEWSPAPER,
IS PUBLISHED UNDER
THE EDITORSHIP OF
LEON DAVIS.

1901

SEPTEMBER 23 •
STUDENTS ORGANIZE
ADELPHIA LITERARY
SOCIETY.

1903

MAY 20 • COLLEGE
BOARD ACCEPTS
RESIGNATION OF
PRINCIPAL C. W. REID.

Remembering a Hero: Benjamin Hays Vandervoort '38

By William L. Thompson '70

The Normandy Invasion. Operation Market-Garden. The Battle of the Bulge. One Washington College alumnus was there in the thick of these, and many other battles. The late Benjamin Hays Vandervoort '38, the highly-decorated military officer with the famed United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, was one of very few soldiers to be awarded three Distinguished Service Crosses for bravery in combat. In addition to three Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star with "V" for valor, he was also decorated by France, Holland, and Belgium.

His bravery is legend, his heroics under enemy fire the stuff of books and movies. Hollywood's hero, John Wayne, played the role of Lieutenant Colonel Ben Vandervoort in the 1962 movie version of Cornelius Ryan's *The Longest Day*. His is the story of a true hero.

On D-Day, his leg was broken and his ankle was so painful that he couldn't support his own weight on it, much less the 80 pounds of gear strapped to his back. Still, Benjamin Hays Vandervoort was one of the fortunate ones.

He had survived the bumpy flight across the English Channel and had parachuted to his assigned drop zone near the orchards outside the old village of Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

Many of the sky soldiers who had jumped with him into the dark morning hours of June 6, 1944, over France's Cherbourg peninsula descended onto flooded farm fields and muddy marshes. Tangled in their chute lines, some of the men drowned in less than five feet of water. They never saw the enemy. Never fired a shot.

His injury was serious enough that he could have taken himself out of the fight. Yet despite his broken leg, Vandervoort still had plenty of fight left. He laced his jump boot tightly and, using his rifle as a crutch, set about assembling his men for their

first objective—securing the road between Neuville-au-Plain and Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

By the year's end, Vandervoort would make all the 82nd's World War II combat jumps—he would be one of the division's famed "four-jump bastards"—and see bloody action in Holland and Belgium.

What astounded Vandervoort's men on D-Day was the sight of an officer so determined to lead his battalion against the enemy that he refused to suffer his pain openly. Still, he couldn't hide his injury and for the next 39 days he moved with the aid of a crutch. Once, when part of Vandervoort's battalion was sent to relieve a platoon by bringing enemy fire upon themselves, Vandervoort did his part from the back of a Jeep. With his legs hanging over the back and crutches beside him, he calmly drew enemy fire with the machine gun.

During the Battle of the Bulge in late December 1944, Vandervoort and his E Company were dispatched to the tiny rural Belgium village of Trois Ponts, where they had no advance knowledge of either friendly or enemy forces.

What they found when they crossed the Salm River was the fearsome 1st S.S. Panzer Division, the spearhead of a German counter offensive sent by Hitler to break through the American front along the Ardennes.

Vandervoort's men, whose hand-held weapons and mortars were no match against the German tanks in open terrain, were ordered to withdraw to the opposite bank of the river and hold off the Nazi Grenadiers.

Throughout the night the Americans used anti-tank guns, machine guns, and mortars against the Germans. In his own words, Vandervoort described his men's actions:

"For twelve long hours they held back the highest priority, best equipped division in the German Army—convincing the 1st S.S. Panzer Commander to turn away and seek an easier route to the west than

through the 505th defenders at Trois Ponts."

Vandervoort was especially proud of his men at Trois Ponts. But it was memories of the awful battle over a disputed bridge three months earlier in Nijmegen, Holland, that had the deepest effect on the battalion commander.

U.S. and British paratroopers teamed up for the largest Allied air assault of the war in what was called Operation Market-Garden. At the end of two weeks' fighting, more than 10,000 Allies would be killed, wounded, or missing.

Fierce battles took place in and around Arnhem near the Dutch-German border. Several miles to the south in Nijmegen, Vandervoort's men fought side by side with British Tommies to gain control of a steel railroad bridge held by the resolute Germans.

In the end, the Americans and British secured the bridge. But the carnage was so terrible that 30 years later, when Vandervoort and his wife returned to Nijmegen as guests of the Belgian government, the sight of the bridge made an old soldier weep.

In January of 1945, U.S. and German soldiers were engaged in ferocious firefights along the snow-covered Ardennes Forest. It was Europe's coldest winter in 25 years and German Panzer units relied upon their new tanks and the weather to help their offensive.

A shell exploded near Vandervoort, spraying the area with hot shrapnel. A fragment struck him, leaving a hole in his forehead the size of a silver dollar. He lost his left eye and his sinuses were badly damaged.

Four months later, with Hitler dead and his military machine in shambles, the end came to the Anglo-German war. Vandervoort was already stateside in a

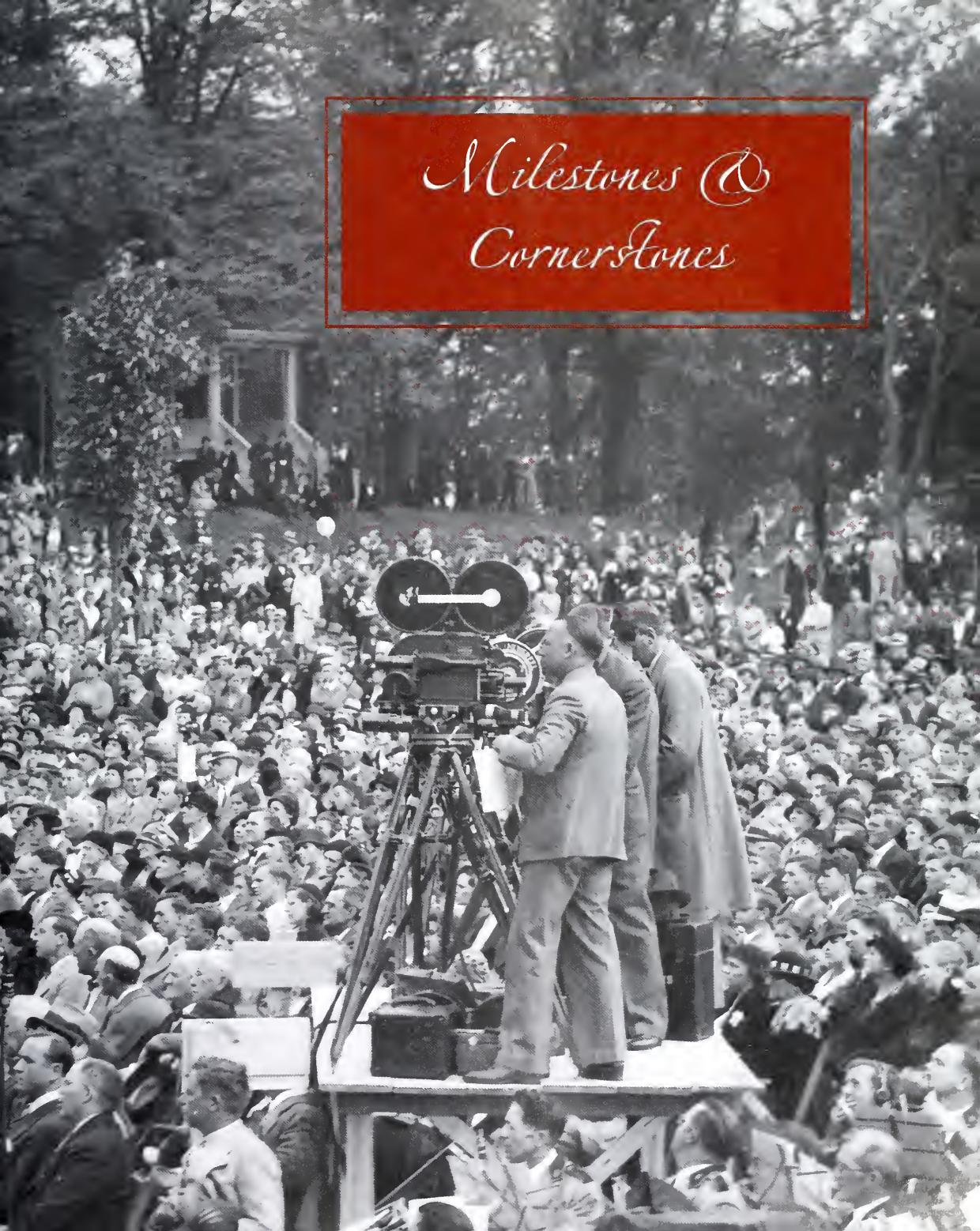


Benjamin Vandervoort '38 represents the best of the Army's World War II combat officers in the Command and General Staff College Hall of Fame.

hospital near Indianapolis, where he would spend the next 18 months recovering from his wounds.

For his bravery and leadership under fire, Vandervoort was awarded three Distinguished Service Crosses—the first one presented personally by General Omar Bradley amidst the ruins of Sainte-Mère-Eglise. **W**





*Milestones &
Cornerstones*

Presidential Visits Put College in the Spotlight

The College's association with the nation's first president has resonated with subsequent campus visitors, particularly an elite group of men who have also held the nation's highest office. In 1789, George Washington had just begun his first term as sitting president of the United States when the College presented him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in New York. Since then, five other men who were or who later became Presidents—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and George H. W. Bush—brought national attention with their campus visits.

FDR attends the Inauguration of Gilbert W. Mead

Overleaf: In the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt pitched his New Deal to thousands of spectators gathered for the inauguration of College President Gilbert Mead.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT was the first sitting United States president to visit Washington College. On that crisp and breezy October 21 in 1933, FDR was expected to accept his honorary degree of laws and, with little more than a wave and a smile to the crowd, leave the campus and return to the White House aboard his official yacht, the *Sequoia*.

1903



Among the honored guests attending the Mead inauguration were delegates from seventy-five colleges and universities, and three former Washington College presidents: Dr. James W. Cain, Clarence P. Gould, and Paul E. Titsworth.

It wasn't in the script for Roosevelt to address the thousands of spectators—the largest crowd in College history—who had gathered on the campus lawn to see him and to witness the inauguration of Gilbert Wilcox Mead as nineteenth president of the College. But something Mead said in his prepared remarks apparently inspired Roosevelt and, following his hooding, the President stepped to the microphone.

"The wider we can have a distribution of the wealth in the proper sense of that term, the more we can make it possible for every man, woman, and child throughout the land to have the necessities," Roosevelt said. "And when they find themselves in such shape that they do not have to lie awake nights wondering where the food for the morrow is coming from, then we shall have the kind of security which means so much to the progress and the spirit of the country."

Roosevelt's proposed New Deal antidote to lift the country out of the Depression was under terrific attack from many quarters and he had been in office only about half a year. FDR looked for support where he could find it, and he found some in Mead's words that day on the inaugural platform in front of William Smith Hall.

JUNE 27 • COLLEGE
BOARD ELECTS JAMES
W. CAIN AS PRESIDENT.

HE HAD BEEN VICE
PRINCIPAL OF ST.
JOHN'S COLLEGE.

SEPTEMBER 16 •
COLLEGE OPENS FALL
SESSION WITH 115
STUDENTS, OF WHOM
24 ARE IN
PREPARATORY CLASSES
AND 51 IN THE
NORMAL SCHOOL.

SEPTEMBER 28 •
STUDENTS OBJECT TO
CARRYING COAL AND
MAKING THEIR OWN
FIRES; PRESIDENT
CAIN SUGGESTS
HIRING A SECOND
JANITOR.

DECEMBER 11 • DR.
CAIN SUBMITS HIS
QUARTERLY REPORT
TO THE BOARD, THE
FIRST TIME IN
COLLEGE HISTORY
THAT SUCH A
COMMUNICATION HAS
BEEN SET ON A
TYPED; THE
BOARD CONTINUES
TO KEEP ITS MINUTES
BY HAND.

1904

MAY 9 • BOARD'S
COMMITTEE ON
REPAIRS IS DIRECTED
TO HAVE LAID A
SIDEWALK ALONG THE
EAST SIDE OF CAMPUS.



Colonel Hiram S. Brown (far right), a political friend of Roosevelt, was responsible for enticing President Roosevelt to visit campus. Pictured on board the Sequoia, which docked at Brown's Chester River estate, are, left to right, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, President Roosevelt, Maryland Governor Albert C. Ritchie, and Colonel Brown.

"I dare express...the hope that the youth who pass from these portals will remember the duty which presses on us from every side, of fitting themselves as speedily into the cooperative machinery of the new order in America, wherein lies our common salvation," said Mead. "The example of our vigorous national administration since last March is sufficient warrant for this exhortation. This is a new kind of pioneering to which we must yoke ourselves. Let us not forget that the praiseworthy 'rugged individualism' of our frontier ancestors has of recent years been succeeded by a 'ruthless individualism' in which were the seeds of incalculable disaster."

Washington College was certainly not immune from the Depression. Its administrators managed to keep the budget balanced that year, but only by cutting back. Paychecks for the faculty and administrators were slashed by as much as ten

percent. Some of the savings, no doubt, helped cover the cost of Mead's inauguration. The \$1,574.37 expenditure was \$500 more than the annual salary of an instructor in the biology department. It helped that student enrollment was up by twenty over the previous year's 268.

Both Roosevelt's and Mead's words were broadcast nationally on the NBC and CBS radio systems. Western Union installed a direct wire immediately in front of the platform, and dispatches describing the ceremony were sent to newspapers as soon as reporters handed their copy to the telegrapher. An RKO cameraman was with the press entourage, too, and moviegoers saw a news reel of the day's events in theaters throughout the United States the next week.

Some 1,600 seats for spectators were set up, but the crowd that turned out was thousands more and the majority of people stood for the entire ceremony. Several hundred uniformed members of the Maryland National Guard, representing all nine counties of the Eastern Shore, were on hand. A presidential cannon salute was fired by a battery of the Sixth Field Artillery, the unit which fired the first shot from an American-manned gun in World War I.

The Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company Band, upon the arrival of Roosevelt, played "Hail to the Chief" and "The Star Spangled Banner."

Accompanying her husband to the platform, Eleanor Roosevelt was presented with a corsage by College senior Sarah Ellen Byrn of Cambridge, Maryland.

1906

JUNE 19 • JAMES A. PEARCE, PRESIDENT OF VISITORS AND GOVERNORS, LAYS CORNERSTONE FOR WILLIAM SMITH HALL ON GROUND FORMERLY USED AS A BASEBALL FIELD.

1907

JUNE 14 • RANDOLPH SMITH, REPRESENTING THE DESCENDANTS OF DR. WILLIAM SMITH, ATTENDS DEDICATION OF NEW CLASSROOM AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NAMED FOR THE COLLEGE FOUNDER.

1910

THE NORMAL DEPARTMENT IS DROPPED FROM THE CURRICULUM. COEDS, WHO MADE UP THE MAJORITY OF NORMAL STUDENTS, ARE RECLASSIFIED AS DAY STUDENTS.



Press, guest, and parking passes for FDR's visit.



President Roosevelt, the First Lady, and Governor Ritchie motored between campus and Colonel Brown's waterfront estate in an open convertible.

Roosevelt was presented with a leather folder containing a photostatic reproduction of the honorary degree the College gave George Washington in 1789 as well as the diploma of the same degree conferred upon him that day. In what probably was his first official act as president of the College, Mead hooded FDR while Brown announced the presentation of the degree.

Following the ceremony, Roosevelt's party, President Mead, and Governor Ritchie were driven out to Brown's estate for lunch. The College crowd gathered inside the gym to dine and then walked the short distance to Kibler Field where the Washington football team would face the University of Delaware in an 8-0 defeat before 3,000 people, the largest group to witness an athletic contest in the school's history at that time.

Roosevelt sailed back across the Chesapeake Bay that afternoon. He never returned to Washington College, although his wife, Eleanor, came back on May

25, 1942, to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree during the fiftieth anniversary celebration of coeducation at the College.

To honor Roosevelt's 1933 visit to campus, a Class of 1934 committee headed by John A. Wagner of Baltimore arranged to have a bronze marker placed on the steps leading into William Smith Hall.

Harry Truman Charmed by Town and College

HARRY S TRUMAN, thirty-third President of the United States, was the second sitting Chief Executive to receive an honorary degree in person at a Washington College commencement.

The eighty-mile trip from Washington, D.C., to Kent County on June 1, 1946, was a leisurely excursion for Truman and his party. Alerted in advance of his schedule, small groups of well-wishers greeted him as he motored through the little towns on the Eastern Shore.

The day's activities seemed to progress effortlessly, giving no indication of the ten-months-long, behind-the-scenes enterprise by well-connected friends of the College to secure the appearance of a second United States President during Mead's term.

Writing to Mead in late September of 1945, Dudley G. Roe, a 1901 graduate of the College, secretary of the Board and at the time the Eastern Shore representative in Congress, said that recently he had been on the privately-owned Jefferson Island in the Chesapeake Bay just off the Talbot County shoreline. The island was a popular getaway for prominent Democrats and had been visited by Roosevelt and some of his cabinet. Following suit, Truman took advantage of the retreat's seclusion.

"I chatted with President Truman," wrote Roe, "...in reference to coming to Washington College next June. He asked me to write him about it, which I have done."

Upon receiving Roe's note, Mead dispatched a flurry of letters enlisting the aid of others in the cause. He contacted Shore native and former U.S. District Court Judge T. Alan Goldsborough. "If you can help us to advance our cause, I should be greatly pleased," he said. (Goldsborough, who graduated from the College in 1899, served ten successive terms representing the Shore in the U.S. Congress. He held the distinction of receiving two honorary law degrees from his *alma mater*—the first granted in 1935 and the second in 1949, two years before his death.)

Mead wrote to Truman of the "sentimental relationship between Washington College and the center of our national government." He sent letters to Millard

1910

MARCH 1 • "LEDGER A," THE FIRST FINANCIAL RECORDS BOOK OF THE COLLEGE, IS DISCOVERED IN A LOFT OF A GRANARY BEING RAZED ON THE CHESTERTOWN WHARF; HISTORIC DOCUMENT IS PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE BY HOPE H. BARROLL. THIS LEDGER, LISTING THE FIRST SUBSCRIBERS TO THE COLLEGE, INCLUDING GEORGE WASHINGTON, IS LOST FOREVER IN THE FIRE THAT DESTROYED WILLIAM SMITH HALL SIX YEARS LATER.

1911

MARCH 1 • COLLEGE BOARD APPOINTS PROFESSOR J.S. WILLIAM JONES AS "KEEPER OF THE COLLEGE RECORDS," THE FIRST RECORDED MENTION OF THE OFFICE LATER NAMED REGISTRAR.

1912

SEPTEMBER 23 • PRESIDENT JAMES W. CAIN SETS CORNERSTONE FOR NEW GYMNASIUM.



College President Gilbert Mead (left) walks down the steps of William Smith Hall with President Harry Truman.

E. Tydings and George L. Radcliffe, Maryland's U.S. senators. He wrote to Maryland Governor Herbert O'Conor. And he wrote to College Board Chairman Hiram S. Brown, the man most responsible for Roosevelt's visit twelve years earlier.

"Unofficially, and on the side," he wrote, "I am enlisting the support of a good friend of mine, Mr. Sam O'Neal, Director of Publicity for the Democratic National Committee, who has a direct line open all the time to Mr. Truman's Secretary, Charles Ross. O'Neal, incidentally, is a native Missourian, as Mrs. Mead is...."

Mead's hopes for an unprecedented second presidential visit during his term were buoyed when he received a letter from Truman dated October 5. "I do

hope that circumstances will work out so that I may have an opportunity to come in person to Washington College next Spring," wrote Truman.

By the end of October, Mead's network of friends in high and influential places was having an effect. "The understanding arrived at on the side...is that the invitation is accepted tentatively." Mead wrote his friend, Sam O'Neal.

Mead was kept waiting for the answer he desired until early April the next year, after Roe brought the matter up again during a meeting with the President at the White House. Truman had accepted the invitation.

When Truman arrived on campus on June 1, he came by car, via the Matapeake ferry across the Chesapeake Bay. Truman's appearance in Chestertown went according to plan. Truman donned his cap and gown in Mead's office and walked with Mead out of William Smith Hall to a platform erected in front of the building. The Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company Band played "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America" and degrees were awarded to twenty-four seniors. Colonel Brown read the citation for Truman's honorary degree and the College hood was placed over the President's shoulders by faculty members Dr. William R. Howell and Dr. Frank Goodwin. Although he was not scheduled to speak, a relaxed and sometimes nostalgic Truman addressed the crowd of 3,000.

Following the commencement, Truman's party returned by auto to Washington early that evening.

1913

JANUARY 31 • NEW
GYMNASIUM OPENS,
LATER NAMED FOR
PRESIDENT CAIN.

1916

JANUARY 28 • ALUMNI
RALLY AT DINNER IN
BALTIMORE'S
RENNERT HOTEL TO
SUPPORT REBUILDING
OF WILLIAM SMITH
HALL.

MARCH 21 • FIRE
DAMAGES BASEMENT IN
SCHOOL GYMNASIUM,
WHICH WAS SAVED
FROM LOSS BY THE
JANUARY BLAZE THAT
DESTROYED SMITH
HALL.

MARCH 31 • SMALL
FIRE DISCOVERED IN
MIDDLE HALL; PRES.
CAIN SUSPECTS ALL
THREE FIRES THIS YEAR,
INCLUDING THE ONE
THAT DESTROYED
SMITH HALL, ARE
ARSON.

1917

JANUARY 17 • A YEAR
AND A DAY AFTER FIRE
DESTROYED WILLIAM
SMITH HALL AND ITS
CONTENTS.

PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY SENDS THE
COLLEGE MORE THAN
300 BOOKS TO HELP
REBUILD LIBRARY.

Eisenhower Flashes His Famous Smile

THE DATE ORIGINALLY PLANNED for a visit to Washington College by President Dwight David Eisenhower was June 6, 1954, the tenth anniversary of the landing by the Allied Expeditionary Force on the beaches of Normandy, France. But Eisenhower, who had commanded the D-Day operation, decided to spend the occasion quietly at his Catoctin Mountain retreat—later named Camp David—in western Maryland. College officials accommodated the change of plans and rescheduled commencement for the next day, Monday, June 7.

President Eisenhower, the third U.S. president to come to Washington College in twenty-one years, flew into Dover Air Force Base shortly after noon and was driven the forty miles to Chestertown, arriving just before the start of the two o'clock ceremony. He was ushered into College President Daniel Z. Gibson's office in William Smith Hall where he donned his cap and gown. The party emerged onto the front steps, where they had immediate access to a canopied platform



In accepting the honorary degree, President Dwight D. Eisenhower remarked: "I am deeply touched by the compliment paid me by this great and venerable institution."

erected for the day. Joining Eisenhower and Gibson on the platform were Maryland Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, U.S. Senators John Marshall Butler and J. Glenn Beall, Congressman Edward T. Miller, Chestertown Mayor Philip G. Wilmer, Episcopal Diocese Bishop Allen J. Miller, College Dean Joseph Doyle, Registrar Ermon N. Foster, and Board Chairman John H. Hessey. Of the estimated 5,000 people in the audience, fifty-seven were Washington College seniors.

The presence of McKeldin was appropriate not only because he was governor of the state, but because he nominated Eisenhower for president at the 1952 Republican Convention in Chicago.

Eisenhower, who was granted an honorary doctor of laws degree, spoke extemporaneously. He said the role of government should be to provide essential services to the public, but not act as "busybodies ... taking over those functions of individuals' lives that must be sustained if we are to remain the great country we have become." Before coming to Chestertown, Eisenhower said he would not talk about the conflict between Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and the executive branch of government and, true to his word, he devoted most of his remarks to the College ceremony.

Eisenhower's stay on campus was brief. Ten minutes after the end of commencement, he was at the rear of William Smith Hall, where he got into the back seat of the convertible that was to return him to Dover. Standing to wave to the crowd that had gathered, Eisenhower nearly toppled out of the car when it lurched forward. He quickly caught himself and avoided falling onto the parking lot.



President Eisenhower (seated, left) was accompanied in the motorcade by Maryland Governor Theodore R. McKeldin. Standing on the right is President Daniel Z. Gibson.

1917

APRIL • WAR DECLARED; SEVEN STUDENTS FROM COLLEGE ENROLL IN MILITARY.

1918

JUNE 6 • PRESIDENT CAIN ADVISES COLLEGE BOARD HE WILL RESIGN AT END OF SESSION.

SEPTEMBER • COLLEGE BECOMES ARMY TRAINING GROUND.

1920

SEPTEMBER 11 • ALUMNI FROM AS FAR AWAY AS BALTIMORE QUARREL WITH BOARD OF VISITORS AND GOVERNORS OVER FUTURE OF THE AILING COLLEGE DURING "GET-TOGETHER DINNER" IN THE GYMNASIUM.

NOVEMBER 6 • WASHINGTON COLLEGE'S "PADDLED" FOOTBALL TEAM, JOINED FOR THE DAY BY 3 LETTERMEN FROM DICKINSON AND A FULLBACK FROM PENN STATE, DEFEAT DREXEL INSTITUTE, 41-0.



John F. Kennedy (pictured here with Kent County Democratic leader George Rasin Jr. '37) was assassinated before he could fulfill his promise to return to campus as a sitting president. His son, John F. Kennedy Jr., gave the commencement address at the College in 1999.

JFK Kicks Off Maryland Campaign at College

JOHN F. KENNEDY, the Democratic senator from Massachusetts favored to be his party's presidential nominee, kicked off his Maryland campaign on May 11, 1960, with an evening visit to Washington College.

Kennedy's private plane landed on the airstrip at Great Oak and the candidate motored the few miles to the campus. Entering Russell Gymnasium, he was greeted by 800 people, many of them students. He had intended to read a prepared speech on the subject of nuclear disarmament, but he tossed the document aside and spoke extemporaneously, covering a range of subjects from the value of primary elections, civil rights, and President Eisenhower's golf swing to the difficult challenge posed by upcoming summit talks between the United States and Russia.

Although prominent state and local Democrats were in attendance, the meeting was chaired by College students. The event was sponsored by the Student Assembly Committee and the International Relations Club.

After his remarks, Kennedy strolled across campus to a reception tendered by the Women's League of Washington College in Minta Martin Hall. He chatted, shook hands and posed for photographs, then was driven back to Great Oak for his return to Washington, D.C. Within days he would come back to the Eastern Shore to continue his campaign.

For years afterwards, students and townspeople would remember Kennedy's visit by a response to a question posed by Harry S. Russell, of *The Kent News*.

"If elected president, will you follow the precedent of your three immediate predecessors—Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower—and come back to Washington College for a talk and an honorary degree?" asked Russell.

"I make every effort to steer clear of 'if' questions, particularly where they concern the presidency," Kennedy replied. "But, if I may be permitted an 'if' answer, we can say that I'll come back next year, if invited."

Kennedy, who was elected the thirty-fifth president the following year, never returned to the College. He was assassinated in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Three days later, College President Daniel Z. Gibson issued the following statement:

The place of President Kennedy in history it is much too early to assess. It is not too early, however, to look within ourselves. This is a time of grief. It is also a time of shame and penitence. The presumed assassin is gone. But as a people we must share his guilt. The vicious hatred that animated him—or him and his fellow plotters, if they exist—is not new to our American society. Brutal or blind disregard of law and peace we know is among us, even in high places. No one of us is innocent. **W**

1922

MARCH • MARYLAND
LEGISLATURE GRANTS
\$30,000 SPECIAL
APPROPRIATION TO
HELP COLLEGE DEFRAY
EXCESS COST OF
REBUILDING WILLIAM
SMITH HALL,
DESTROYED BY FIRE IN
1916.

JUNE 9 • TRUSTEES
MEET FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE COLLEGE
CHARTER WAS
AMENDED TO INCREASE
BOARD TO 24
MEMBERS, INCLUDING
12 ELECTED BY
ALUMNI.

JUNE 19 • DR. MARY C.
BURCHINAL '96, A
FORMER LANGUAGE
AND ART TEACHER AT
THE COLLEGE, IS
NAMED FIRST FEMALE
COLLEGE TRUSTEE;
BOARD ELECTS DR.
CLARENCE P. GOULD
PRESIDENT; TRUSTEES
RESOLVE TO LAUNCH
\$250,000 ENDOWMENT
CAMPAIGN.

1923

JUNE 18 • MARYLAND
GOV. ALBERT C.
RITCHIE RECEIVES
HONORARY DEGREE OF
LL.D. AT
COMMENCEMENT.

JUNE 30 •
RESIGNATION OF
PRESIDENT CLARENCE
P. GOULD BECOMES
EFFECTIVE.

Bush Encourages Students in Public Service

BY 1960 THREE SITTING AND TWO FUTURE presidents of the United States had visited Washington College. Four of them—Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy—were successive presidents whose appearances on campus occurred within a period of twenty-seven years. What appeared to be a budding tradition at the College abruptly came to a halt and nearly four decades had passed when, on January 29, 1999, former President George H. W. Bush and his wife Barbara were the featured speakers at the winter convocation.

The Bush visit to Washington College coincided with the approaching dénouement of President William Clinton's impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate. The outcome was but a week away and opinions of how it would end were as plentiful as stars at night. The presence of a former White House occupant on campus heightened interest in the historic events taking place in the nation's capital. Would Bush weigh in on the plight of his successor? After all, former President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole had voiced their feelings about the whole sordid matter.

Before nearly 1,500 spectators and a battery of TV cameras and print reporters inside Russell Gymnasium, Bush, who had agreed to answer students' written questions following his speech, got the opportunity everybody wanted to give him to talk about impeachment and presidential misbehavior.

But there was something Bush had said before he took the questions that forewarned the audience. When he occupied the White House, he noted, he accepted it as part of his job to answer even the toughest "zingers" from the press. "Now," he declared with a satisfied but playful grin, "if I don't like your question, the hell with you. I'm not going to answer it."

And he didn't. At least not the two questions students posed about Clinton's troubles. "I've assiduously tried to stay out of this," Bush said, almost apologetically. "I don't think any editorializing by me is helpful. ...let's just let the Constitution work and get on with the country's business."

No one seemed to mind that Bush sidestepped the Clinton questions. He did it with grace and statesmanship, and the audience rewarded him with hearty applause. "It's a spirit of liberation, total liberation," said Bush, describing the satisfaction of no longer inhabiting the innermost circles of American politics.

In his prepared remarks, the forty-first president said the country should maintain its role as a super power in the post-Cold War era. He also urged the students to become actively involved in issues that affected their lives. "Don't just criticize," he said.



Former U.S. President George Bush (left, with College President John Toll) helped launch an 18-month-long celebration of the life of George Washington. His appearance was the first of many events marking the 200th anniversary of the death of the first president.

In an aside, Bush gave advice to Student Government Association President Eric B. Johnson Jr., who had told the crowd he hoped to return to the College after graduation as a College trustee. "Why shoot low?" asked Bush. "Why not 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?"

Both Bushes were granted honorary doctorates in public service. Dr. James D. Watson, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who co-discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, was awarded an honorary doctorate of science. Edward L. Athey, the convocation marshal, performed the hooding of each degree recipient. While he did not speak at the convocation, the scientist delivered two lectures that day to chemistry and biology students.

Prior to the convocation, the Bushes and Dr. Watson were among 144 guests at a private luncheon—oyster stew and rockfish were featured—held in the Casey Academic Center and catered by the Washington College Dining Service.

The convocation was videotaped by C-SPAN and was broadcast nationally as part of the cable network's February 15 Presidents Day programming. **W**

Coeducation Changes Attitudes Toward Women

Since women were first admitted to Washington College in 1891, they have challenged cultural attitudes toward women in education, in sports, and in professions. Most early female students were enrolled in the "Normal" department, studying to be teachers. That department was closed when it became too popular. In the mid-1930s one woman was considered talented enough to compete at the varsity level; she joined the men's tennis team. Today, female students outnumber men and have proven their intellectual abilities. Eight of the past ten recipients of the George Washington Medal, the College's highest academic award, have been women.

By Sue De Pasquale '87

De Pasquale is editor of the *Johns Hopkins University Magazine*.

HOW WAS PROFESSOR PROCTOR TO KNOW, when he boarded the Chestertown steamer bound for Baltimore, that his trip this day in early September 1891 would set off such an unexpected chain of events? He had been teaching biology and chemistry at Washington College now for several years, and making the daily ride to Baltimore to visit relatives whenever time and the weather permitted. As the steamer pulled away from the dock, he sat down on his customary bench to bask in the sunlight, his mind contentedly drifting off. But today's journey was not to prove as smooth as he had hoped.



Cocds pose on the steps of Normal Hall in 1902 with, at top, Professor J. Edward Clark.

Jarred from his reveries by the rustle of petticoats, he opened one eye to see a band of young women clustered about.

Did he teach at Washington College? they inquired. Why, yes, Proctor responded pleasantly. Their next question was not as easy: Why aren't women allowed to attend classes at the College? Proctor had no ready answer. He knew the College's charter did not deny them the opportunity. Yet up to now, Washington College, like many other colleges of the day, was the unchallenged realm of the "stronger" sex. (Gettysburg College had enrolled its first women only six years earlier. The College of William and Mary would not follow suit until 1918.)

Sensing the professor's hesitation, the young women jumped in with a friendly barrage of reasons as to why they should be able to enroll at Washington College.

1923

AUGUST 22 • TRUSTEES ELECT DR. PAUL E. TITSWORTH NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

SEPTEMBER 1 • THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION GOES INTO EFFECT.

1924

APRIL 11 • DR. PAUL E. TITSWORTH IS INAUGURATED PRESIDENT DURING CEREMONY INSIDE WILLIAM SMITH HALL.

JUNE • COLLEGE ENDS PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT; NO LONGER WILL SOME STUDENTS BE CALLED "PREPS" AND "FRESHIES."

1925

OCTOBER 17 • THE 177 STUDENTS BEGINNING THE FALL SEMESTER REPRESENT THE LARGEST FRESHMAN CLASS AND TOTAL ENROLMENT IN COLLEGE HISTORY.



Normal Hall was the first College building specifically designated for use by women. It was later named Reid Hall in honor of College President Charles W. Reid. The dormitory was remodeled in 1929 and subsequently underwent an architectural makeover to reflect the colonial style of Mt. Vernon.

They were sincere, their arguments well-executed, and Proctor found himself unwittingly warming to their cause. He promised to take their case before College President Charles Reid once he got back to Chestertown.

Reid, too, was easily won over. On September 18, 1891, he proposed to the Board of Visitors and Governors that females be admitted to classes and lectures of Washington College as day students. The Board adopted the resolution (mostly for pecuniary reasons, historians speculate today), and the first eleven young women became members of the student body at Washington College.

In the years that have passed since that day in 1891, the College has seen a succession of strong-willed women, both students and faculty members, push for continued progress for the "fairer" sex. Like their predecessors on the Chestertown steamer, these women have been guided by a steely determination to speak up, and to continue speaking up, until their voices are heard.

Today's coed would laugh in disbelief if told she could not run for the Student Government Association, that she had to be in by 10 p.m., and get written permission to leave campus for the weekend, even though her male classmates could do as they pleased. But it wasn't so long ago that such inequities were inextricably woven into the social fabric of the times.

Margaret "Maggie" Horsley, professor of sociology, had her work cut out for her, both in the classroom and in Reid Hall dormitory, where she spent a stint from 1960 until 1965 as Dean of Women. "I tried to get the young women to consider that life is not just getting engaged and then getting married, raising a family and having your husband looking after you for the rest of your life. But it was difficult," she recalled. "They thought I was crazy."

Horsley's students were not the first to have that reaction. Her adviser at Berkeley was shocked when he learned that she yearned to do graduate work in anthropology. His advice? Give up the idea and get married. Horsley ignored the first part of his suggestion and went on to earn her Ph.D. from Columbia University. She taught at Hofstra University before coming to Washington College in 1956; she would remain until her retirement thirty years later.

Horsley came on board around the same time as modern language professors Gerda Blumenthal and Esther Dillon, names well-known to a generation of Washington College students. The three women became fast friends and quickly established themselves as leaders within the predominantly male faculty. All three would go on to serve as department chairs.

"Anytime we spotted a bright woman, we would encourage her to go on to an M.A. or a Ph.D., or to anything else she felt inclined to do," Horsley said of

Most of the girls have been not only sheltered but petted.

*It is hard to believe, yet we have a freshman this year who,
not knowing how to manage a shower, was the cause of a
ceiling falling from wet plaster. Her mother bathed her
until recently and always told her what to eat.*

From 1931 report by Dean of Women Margaret G. Brewer.

1925

NOVEMBER 20 • THE COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION GIVES THE COLLEGE A "CLASS A" RATING, SIGNIFYING THAT IT APPEARS ON THE LIST OF ACCREDITED COLLEGES.

1926

JANUARY 9 • COLLEGE PRESIDENT TITSWORTH LEADS ORGANIZATION OF CHESTERTOWN ROTARY CLUB AND IS ELECTED ITS FIRST PRESIDENT.

JUNE 12 • COLLEGE TRUSTEES ELECT J.S. WILLIAM JONES DEAN AND A. ROY WOODLAND REGISTRAR.

AUGUST 5 • NEARLY 400 FARMERS AND THEIR WIVES FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA., SPEND THE NIGHT ON CAMPUS DURING A TWO-DAY AUTO TOUR OF THE SHORE.

1927

JUNE • *THE PEGASUS*, THE COLLEGE YEARBOOK, IS PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1910.

Eleanor Roosevelt and the 50th Anniversary of Coeducation

While preparing for the spring 1942 commencement exercises, it was decided that the College should commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of coeducation at the school. The highlight of the program was the conferring of the honorary degree upon three distinguished women—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Miss Adele France, and Mrs. Sophie Kerr Underwood.

Mrs. Roosevelt, in addition to her position as the First Lady of the land, was honored because of her national prominence as a leader in the women's movement, her interest in the proper education of women, particularly young women, and for her many humanitarian activities. She had accompanied FDR during his visit to the school in 1933 for the inauguration of Gilbert W. Mead as president.

France, Class of 1900, was honored as a distinguished graduate. The College conferred the master's degree upon her in 1902. After a considerable period of time in the field of education, she earned a Master's Degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1923. She became principal of St. Mary's Seminary, where she directed that institution successfully and later saw the addition of a junior college to its program.

The 1942 commencement celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of coeducation at Washington College by honoring three women. Pictured left to right are Board Chairman Colonel Hiram S. Brown; Maryland Governor Herbert O'Conor; First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt; College President Gilbert Mead; teacher Mary Adele France; and author Sophie Kerr Underwood.

Sophie Kerr Underwood (she later parted with her husband and dropped his surname) was honored as a distinguished writer of novels and short stories, as well as an editor of women's magazines for many years. A native of Denton, Maryland, she attended the Women's College of Frederick (now Hood College), later completing her education at the University of Vermont. For some years she was the editor of the *Women's Home Companion*. She was the author of more than a dozen successful novels and a very large collection of short stories that appeared in the best American magazines.

Hope H. Barroll Jr., Class of 1918, used his position as executive vice-president of radio station WFBR to get a national broadcast of portions of the day's ceremonies.

Mrs. Roosevelt, addressing a large crowd inside Cain Gymnasium, spoke of the first coeds to attend Washington College. "...those first girls who came here had a great sense of their privilege and also of their responsibility," she said. "Perhaps some of us who have had that same privilege have forgotten the responsibility which always goes with higher education." **W**



the late 1950s. "The problem was, that was not considered a proper female role." Women were supposed to be "passive, sweet, and not too bright," she recalled. "If you wanted a date, you'd better keep quiet that you were getting A's."

During those years, few of her female students joined in class discussions. It often was not until the semester's first blue book exam that she would discover "that young woman in the corner who kept her mouth shut really did know what was going on." Even then, grades could be deceiving. "Sometimes very intelligent girls would get D's and F's, rather than A's. They weren't going to be bothered with studying—there was no point to it. It wouldn't get you a date. It wouldn't get you a man. So they would settle for a nice, ladylike C."

Academically, women too often had a low opinion of themselves, said the sociologist. They needed encouragement, and Horsley tried her best to give it to them. Together with professors Guy Goodfellow and Nancy Tatum, for example, she helped establish the Senior Women's Honor Society, which was eventually melded with Omicron Delta Kappa.

There were exceptions, of course—women who would not have dreamed of hiding their scholarly light under a barrel—like Christine Pabon '62. She became director of Washington College's Study Skills Program.

"I knew there were other women who were holding back," she said, "but I was an aberration. I was vocal from the moment I walked into the College. I had my hand up all the time—you couldn't shut me up," said Pabon, who graduated second in her class.

Speaking up was not always easy, however. In her freshman year, Pabon tied for the class's top spot with friend and classmate Patrick Cullen '62. Since the two had identical GPA's, they both received the customary Fox Medal at Fall Convocation award ceremonies. After they had left the stage and returned to their seats, Cullen showed her the check that accompanied his medal. He was appalled to find she had not gotten one.

"You might ask, 'Why didn't you go in and raise the roof?'" she said. "Well, part of it was the atmosphere of the times. Somehow, women weren't as conscious of those abuses. I knew that it hurt, but I didn't feel I could go and raise a ruckus."

Despite the incident, she pushed ahead in her study of Spanish and French, thanks in large part to the influence of professors Dillon and Blumenthal. "They were my two mentors, the women who formed me, the ones I admired. They had a lot to do with my intellectual development."

Blumenthal, who taught French and world literature, would be the first recipient of the College's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1964. Dillon, together with Horsley and history professor Nate Smith, was a "prime mover" for curricular change, Pabon said. "She was one of the principal architects of the Four Course plan. Her leadership affected the faculty, the curriculum, and the student body in a profound way."

1927

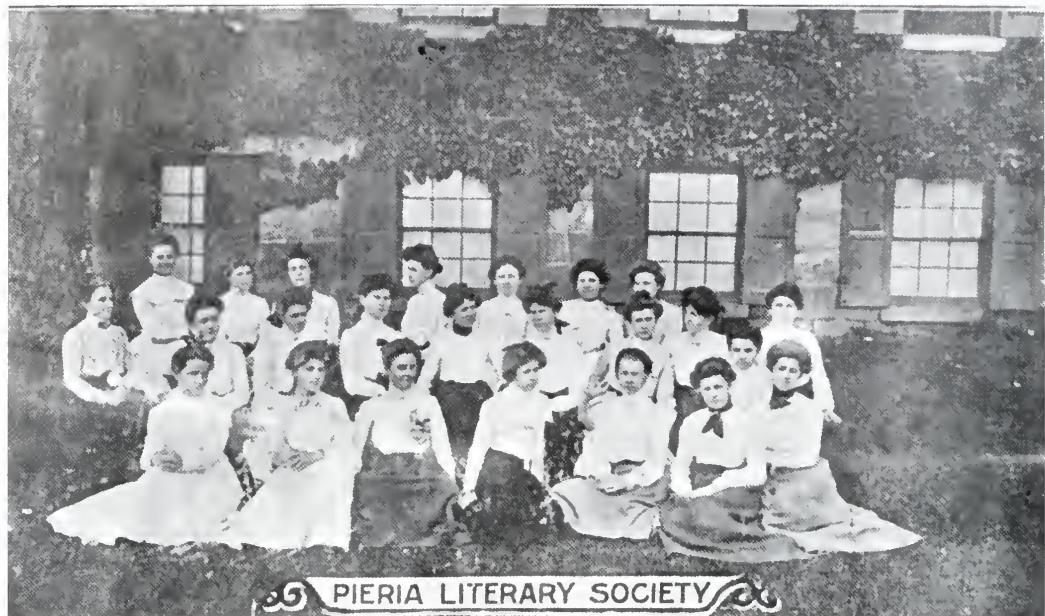
JUNE 6 • FILING IN
FOR U.S. SECRETARY
OF COMMERCE
HERBERT HOOVER,
WHOSE TIME IS
DEVOTED TO THE
TERRIBLE FLOODING
OF THE MISSISSIPPI
RIVER, SENATOR
MILLARD E. TYDINGS IS
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER.

OCTOBER 25 •
REGISTRAR WILLIAM
R. HOWELL ADOPTS
THE KARDEX VISIBLE
FILING SYSTEM TO
HELP KEEP TRACK OF
GRADES AND CLASS
ASSIGNMENTS OF THE
SCHOOL'S 241
STUDENTS.

1928

JANUARY 13 • COLLEGE
BENEFATOR AND
BOARD MEMBER
COLONEL CLARENCE
HODSON DIES.

JUNE 3 • DURING
BACCALAUREATE
EXERCISES IN WILLIAM
SMITH HALL, 31
STUDENTS—THE
LARGEST SENIOR CLASS
IN THE COLLEGE
HISTORY—RECEIVE
DIPLOMAS.



As women of the late nineteenth century were permitted to join neither the Mount Vernon Literary Society nor the Philomathean Society, they formed their own club, the Pieria Literary Society, in 1894.

Horsley recalled sharing a special camaraderie with Dillon and the other female members of the faculty. "One of the great myths in American culture is that women are isolated and unsupportive of each other," she said. "Women who went into higher education at that time had been through the mill. They all stuck together." Miss Bertha M. Stiles, instructor of English, mathematics, and German, was the very first woman to grace the faculty of Washington College, in 1893. Not surprisingly, she became the College's first housemother, when Normal Hall opened in the spring of 1897. By establishing a Normal Department to train women as public school teachers, the College could justifiably ask the Maryland General Assembly to underwrite the cost of building the dormitory (known today as Reid Hall). The sum agreed upon was \$6,000. Normal Hall "sat on a hill, ninety feet above tidewater," from which there was "a beautiful view of the town, Chester River, and the surrounding country," according to a 1897-98 course catalog. The basement held a dining room,

kitchen, and pantry. On the first floor were apartments for female faculty. The upper floors could accommodate up to thirty-two students.

With the dormitory's construction came a set of rules, draconian by later standards, which forbade "social intercourse between gentlemen and lady students except in the presence of one or more teachers." Only on Friday evenings, between 8 and 10 p.m., could the young women host a reception for their male classmates.

During those early years of coeducation, most women opted to take the two-year Normal Course, which enabled them to earn a certificate to teach in Maryland's elementary schools. By the spring of 1911, Washington College had awarded normal certificates to 132 women. By contrast, only fourteen women had earned bachelor's degrees. (One went on to earn her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, another to be head of a Maryland junior college.) The Normal curriculum's popularity ultimately proved to be its undoing. Fearing that the College's liberal arts curriculum was being overshadowed, the administration discontinued the department that same year. The program's demise, coupled with the increasing "disciplinary problem" of housing men and women on the same campus, prompted the closing of Normal Hall as well. The few women who continued to enroll at Washington College were day students.

The windows of Normal Hall remained darkened until 1919, when the Board of Visitors and Governors affirmed its commitment to assuring "equal provisions" for the education of both sexes. In those intervening years, women had worked alongside men in factories during World War I and had fought for the right to vote. When they returned that fall to renew their role as boarders, they came this time expecting to share fully in the liberal arts experience.

Becky Brown Owens '25 enrolled at Washington College during the same decade that Normal Hall was enlarged and renamed to honor Charles Reid, the president who had pushed coeducation through.

I believe the small college, whether or not coeducational, has a distinct advantage over the larger institutions in at least one point.

It permits greater freedom of intercourse among students and teachers, the former thus receiving the benefits of direct and frequent contact with more mature and experienced minds.

Eleanor Roosevelt in an interview with sophomore Dorothy Clarke of Baltimore during the First Lady's first visit to Washington College in 1933.

1930

JUNE 8 •
COMMENCEMENT
WEEK FEATURES
DISPLAY ON STAGE OF
WILLIAM SMITH HALL
OF AN AUTHENTIC
REMBRANDT PEALE
PORTAIT OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON, ONCE
OWNED BY P.T.
BARNUM.

OCTOBER 9 •
STUDENTS POLLED
DURING CHAPEL HOUR
OVERWHELMINGLY
VOTE TO CHANGE
NAME OF WEEKLY
COLLEGE NEWSPAPER
FROM *THE COLLEGIAN*
TO *THE ELM*; SOME
STUDENTS PREFER
PAPER TO BE NAMED
THE FLYING
PENTAGON TO HONOR
SUCCESSFUL
BASKETBALL TEAM.

1931

JANUARY 20 • OPERA
STAR HELEN JEPSON
MAKES AN UNUSUAL
TRIP TO THE EASTERN
SHORE WHERE, AS
GUEST OF THE KENT
COUNTY MUSICAL
SOCIETY, SHE SINGS TO
A FULL HOUSE IN
WILLIAM SMITH HALL
AUDITORIUM.

Teaching and Housing the New Coeds

College President Charles W. Reid, on August 12, 1895, strongly recommended that steps be taken to erect a dormitory for coeds, stating that, during his canvass of the Eastern Shore, he was assured by prospective female students that they would attend the College if suitable accommodations were available. The Board suggested that the principal secure, from at least two builders, plans and specifications for a building to be erected at a cost not to exceed \$3,000, including everything except the plumbing.

On November 9, 1895, *The Kent News* wrote:

Neither the Eastern Shore nor Delaware has any institution where those who wish to teach in public schools can make special preparation. Teachers must therefore be employed who have had no proper training, or they must seek it either outside the State or at the Baltimore Normal School. If they are not fortunate enough to obtain a "normal" scholarship, which gives them free tuition, the cost is so great that very many who would gladly take a special training for this work are obliged to get on as best they can without it. The result is that many who have made honest efforts to prepare themselves fail at the county examinations; while the ranks of the teachers in public schools are necessarily recruited from those who are poorly qualified to teach. Only 70 free scholarships are distributed among the counties of the Eastern Shore, although nearly 600 teachers are employed. As the course lasts three years about 20 normal school graduates are prepared for the Eastern Shore each year. A very small proportion of our teachers hold normal school diplomas.



At a meeting of the Board on February 1, 1896, the members decided to ask the General Assembly to authorize the College to establish a Normal Department to train public school teachers. A bill was prepared and a motion made to request C.T. Westcott, the senator representing Kent County, to introduce the bill in the Maryland Senate. On March 19 the General Assembly voted to empower the Visitors and Governors of Washington College to establish "in said college or seminary of learning, a department of pedagogy for the instruction and practice of teachers in the science of education."

Later in the same session the General Assembly approved an appropriation of \$5,000 to be applied to the erection of a "suitable building upon the college grounds for the reception of female boarding students." The act directed that an additional \$1,000 be granted for scholarships. The College was to supply free tuition and books in the Normal Department to one "indigent" female

student in each county on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In return the recipient was to sign an agreement to pay the College \$25 for each session she attended at the College should she fail to teach in the public schools of Maryland.

Subsequently the Board proceeded with building plans. President Reid negotiated for the purchase of a portion of the Bell lot. A building committee secured plans, specifications, and bids for a building to accommodate thirty female boarders. The committee was instructed to secure bids comparing the cost of a brick building to that of a wooden structure. **[W]**

Clockwise from opposite, left: Three Alpha Chi sorority members relax in a typical coed dorm room of the 1950s. Fourteen coeds in gowns and dresses vie for the 1959 Best Dressed Contest. A barefoot coed reads in her room in the 1960s.



1931

AUGUST • COLLEGE BUSINESS MANAGER JAMES W. JOHNS REPORTS THAT THE NET WORTH OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE, INCLUDING GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS, IS \$629,693.04.

1932

FEBRUARY • COACH J. THOMAS KIBLER URGES STUDENTS TO STOP BOOING VISITING BASKETBALL SQUADS; A REFEREE AWARDS A ST. JOHN'S PLAYER A FREE THROW AFTER SHOREMEN FANS HECKLE THE OPPOSING TEAM.

MARCH 5 • THE COLLEGE ORCHESTRA, DIRECTED BY DR. FREDERICK LIVINGOOD, BROADCASTS LIVE OVER STATION WFBR IN BALTIMORE.

MARCH 31 • DURING AN ASSEMBLY AT THE COLLEGE, MRS. HARVEY W. WILEY, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, URGES PASSAGE OF AN AMENDMENT GUARANTEEING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN.



Residents of Normal Hall in 1925 expected equal educational opportunities.

"We kept our rooms very clean, because the Dean of Women had her suite there," recalled Owens. "We would sit in her living room and have nice, friendly chats about whatever might be bothering us. From four until six o'clock in the afternoon, the boys would come over and we would dance to records. In the evening, we'd sit out on the front porch and talk a while."

A political science major, Owens played intramural tennis and was president of the Girls' Student Council. Later, as the first female president of Washington College's Alumni Council, she was instrumental in establishing the Alumni House. "When I was president, the Alumni Council had the best attendance ever," she said. "All the men came to watch me so I wouldn't put anything over on them."

When basketball games were held at Cain Gymnasium, everyone gathered afterward for a bonfire rally. "The boys would stand on boxes and make speeches

around the bonfire. When it was time to go home, they would sing 'Good Night, Ladies' and start putting the fire out. Do you know how they did that?" she asked, her voice lowering conspiratorially. "They would all pee on it! That's when we knew it was time for us to go."

No one questioned obvious differences in the way men and women were treated, Owens said. "In those days, you didn't think about male chauvinism. It never entered our minds," she says. "Men were presidents of all the clubs, but that didn't worry us. We were allowed to be in the clubs and plays. And we supported them in sports as cheerleaders."

The situation hadn't changed all that much by the mid-1930s, said Miriam Ford Hoffecker '36. Men fielded the varsity sports teams that traveled to other colleges, while women remained at home to compete in intramural basketball, tennis, archery, and field hockey. "We recognized that money was scarce and there was no way in the world they could support any more varsity teams, so we enjoyed what we had," she said.

Hoffecker couldn't help feeling gleeful, though, when her field hockey team challenged the football men to a hockey match—and won. Or when tennis great Jean Harshaw Lesko '37 became the first woman ever named to a men's varsity team. "That was one of our victories," said Hoffecker. "She could beat all the men."



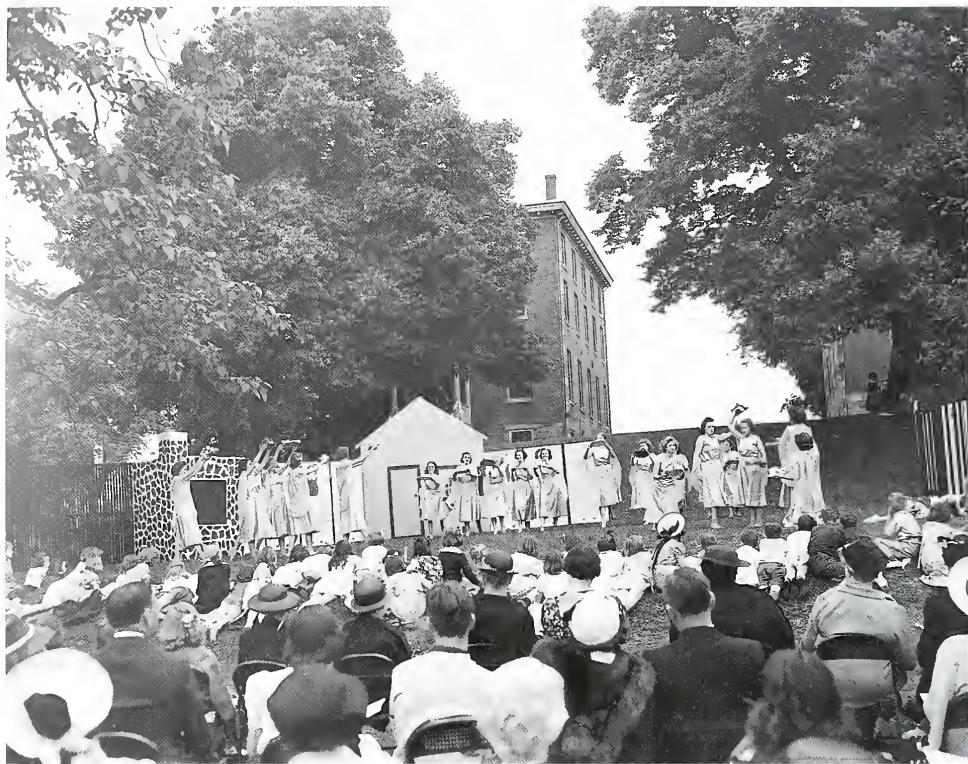
Barred from the all-male Student Council, female students formed their own. Pictured here is the 1931 Girls' Student Council.

1932

APRIL • PLAYING HORSESHOES IS A POPULAR DIVERSION ON CAMPUS; FRESHMAN LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN STARTS THE FAD WHEN HE DRIVES TWO STAKES INTO THE GROUND AND CHALLENGES ALL TAKERS.

APRIL 21 • UPPERCCLASS MALES PROTEST A PROPOSED RULING THAT THEY WEAR COATS DURING THE EVENING MEAL; STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS CHASTISE MIDDLE HALL RESIDENTS FOR USING "SLUGS" IN THE TELEPHONE.

MAY 5 • A COLLEGE DELEGATION LED BY PRESIDENT TITSWORTH VISITS PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER IN THE WHITE HOUSE IN HOPES OF SECURING HIS APPEARANCE AT THE JUNE 11 COMMENCEMENT.



As the national economy recovers and American involvement in World War II is yet to come, students like these 1938 coeds fully enjoy the advantages of the liberal arts experience.

Her junior year, Hoffecker and some friends decided the time had come to breach the all-male bastions of the Student Council. They selected Dorothy Clarke Clifford '36, blessed with a flair for the dramatic, to make their case before the council's faculty adviser, Dean Jones. According to Hoffecker, the meeting didn't last long. To the suggestion that women be allowed to run for office, he replied, "Why, Miss Clarke, that is impossible."

"But why is it impossible?" she pressed.

"Because there has never been a woman on the student council," he said in dismissal.

Just a few years later in 1942, Eleanor Roosevelt, the nation's First Lady, came to Washington College to speak at Commencement on May 25. Her address, carried nationwide by the Mutual Broadcasting System, was the crown jewel in the College's celebration of its first fifty years of coeducation. For the first time ever, three women were chosen to receive honorary degrees at a Washington College Commencement: Roosevelt, Mary Adele France, the 1900 graduate who was principal of St. Mary's Seminary and Junior College, and writer Sophie Kerr Underwood, a Denton native.

Contemporary gender relations are a world apart from what they were. "It was in the late 1960s," said Horsley, "that you started to see a real difference in attitudes. Women grew more talkative in class, and more interested in doing something with their lives beyond getting married."

America was gripped in the throes of social upheaval. Up until 1966–67, men were not allowed to cross Route 213 to the women's dormitories after 6:30 p.m. That changed a year later when "open house hours" went into effect. Members of the opposite sex (provided they were dressed in "good taste") could visit up until midnight on weekend nights. Doors, however, had to remain open and rooms kept "neat and orderly."

The next year, doors could be closed as long as the light remained on. In 1971 the floodgates of permissiveness opened wide, washing away enforced morality and leaving behind a twenty-four-hour visitation policy. **W**

*The present Washington College girls are, I believe, striving
to keep their wits and to improve them usefully in this place that
God and our Board have set them. And to any founding fathers
who may be turning in their graves, we say today,
"Rest, perturbed spirits, rest."*

From speech by Dean of Women Amanda Bradley on the occasion of the ground-breaking ceremony for Minta Martin, a new women's dormitory, on April 29, 1954.

1932

JUNE 11 • COLLEGE
COMMEMORATES
200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON'S BIRTH
AND 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
COLLEGE'S FOUNDING;
MARYLAND GOV.
ALBERT C. RITCHIE
AND GERMAN
AMBASSADOR
FRIEDRICH VON
PRITTWITZ ARE
GUESTS.

1933

MARCH 23 •
HONORARY
SCHOLASTIC
FRATERNITY SIGMA
SIGMA OMICRON IS
FOUNDED AT COLLEGE
BY DR. FREDERICK
LIVINGOOD FOR
JUNIORS AND SENIORS
HAVING AN
ACCUMULATIVE INDEX
OF 2.25 OR HIGHER.

OCTOBER 31 •
WASHINGTON
CHEMICAL SOCIETY
ATTRACTS 25
STUDENTS AND TWO
FACULTY MEMBERS TO
ITS FIRST MEETING.

1935

MAY 18 • NATIONAL
SOCIETY OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF
CINCINNATI DEDICATE
MARKER ON CAMPUS
IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Rich History Resides in Hynson-Ringgold House

*Hynson-Ringgold House, a stately brick structure on Chestertown's Water Street, was acquired by Washington College in 1944 and has served as the residence for the College president and his family since 1946. Before then, nearly all the College presidents lived on campus. Built during the first half of the eighteenth century, the presidential home is considered one of the finest residences on the Eastern Shore. In 1988 the College and the Kent County Historical Society published *Three Centuries of American Life: The Hynson-Ringgold House of Chestertown* by College alumna Elizabeth S. Duvall. The following is taken from that book.*

by Elizabeth Sutton Duvall '30

Duvall, who died in 1989, served eight years on the Board of Visitors and Governors.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE HAD BURNED IN 1827, and rooms, probably including one in the house, were rented about town for classes. After Isaac Spencer's death in 1832, the College considered buying the house for \$3,000 to use as its main building, but the Board decided against it. It stretches the imagination to contemplate how the College would have developed from a Water Street campus.

Instead it was sold to James Edmondson Barroll and his wife Henrietta. Mr. Barroll was a member of a family originating in England, where they owned



1935

MAY 25 • WILLIAM O. BAKER IS THE UNANIMOUS CHOICE BY A COMMITTEE OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO BE SENIOR ORATOR AT COMMENCEMENT.

SEPTEMBER 27 • ENTIRE COMMUNITY SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT THELMA BUXTON, WIFE OF COLLEGE CHEMISTRY TEACHER DR. KENNETH BUXTON, MURDERED HER LIVE-IN MOTHER-IN-LAW IN THEIR WATER STREET APARTMENT.

NOVEMBER 5 • STUDENTS PAY 30 CENTS A YEAR TO COVER COSTS OF "BLUE BOOKS" TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS BEFORE EACH TEST.

NOVEMBER 9 • DR. MARY C. BURCHINAL, ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO GRADUATE FROM THE COLLEGE AND THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS A TRUSTEE, BEQUEATHS 300 BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY.

Historic preservationist Wilbur Ross Hubbard encouraged the Board to purchase the Hynson-Ringgold House and the waterfront property across the street. The formal front garden is bordered by Chester River wetland.

"Byford Court." Like Isaac Spencer, he was a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College for twenty-four years. James' first wife, Mary, had been the daughter of Samuel and Rachel Ringgold of "Ringgold Manor" and a direct descendant of Thomas [Ringgold] the Merchant. His second wife, Henrietta Jane Hackett, was the daughter of John Hackett and Sarah Von Solingen Bedford. The Bedfords were a Delaware family of architects—one member was one of the founders of Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia. There were no children of the first brief marriage, but the second marriage produced nine, of whom the eldest was eleven years of age when the house was bought. Four of her siblings were born in the house. Mr. Barroll loved his home. The property extended to within about fifty

feet of High Street, taking in more than three-fourths of the entire block.

Mr. Barroll made many improvements. It was probably he who added the front and side porticoes—a picture painted at that time shows them, with the house whitewashed. The porticoes were added probably in the 1840s. The water lots in front of the house were filled in, “thereby turning an unsightly and unpleasant dock, which was exposed at low tides, into what was then a beautiful and attractive outlook.”

Mr. Barroll was an erudite scholar with a large library; for instance, he owned a fifty-volume set of the “Works of the British Poets.” There must have been books all over the house then, and the rooms must have looked very different filled with shelves. Mr. Barroll, who had attended Washington College, had finished his education at Yale, read law in his father’s office and become an attorney. He soon became recognized as one of the leading lawyers on the Shore and acquired considerable wealth. He never ceased to love literature and prepared a four-volume bound collection “of the best thoughts and writing of the Latin,

James A. Pearce, a College Board member from 1835 until his death in 1862, purchased the Hyson-Ringgold House in 1853.





Judge Pearce's flute was returned to the Hynson-Ringgold House during the Cater administration.

Greek, French, Italian and English authors," titled "Nugae Literariae," making his own translations and comments. We picture Mr. Barroll writing at a table large enough to hold all his references, probably in the Western Parlor since that was where Senator Pearce later had his office.

In the War of 1812, Mr. Barroll was secretary and adjtntant of the Troop of the Horse of Kent County, and kept a meticulous minute book, describing in detail the activities preceding and during the Kent County night battle of Caulk's Field, in which he took part.

Mr. Barroll wrote to a friend in Easton, "my venerable domicile looks much like an old abbey," giving the house the name "The Abbey," which it retained for 108 years, although it was also called by the names of subsequent owners.

In 1853, Mr. Barroll retired, sold the house to Senator Pearce, and moved his family first to Baltimore, and later to Holly Hall in Elkton. During his tenure in

1936

MARCH 28 • BETA
OMEGA CHAPTER OF
KAPPA ALPHA ORDER
ESTABLISHES FIRST
NATIONAL FRATERNITY
AT COLLEGE.

MAY 4 •
CONSTRUCTION
BEGINS ON HODSON
HALL, THE BUILDING
WHICH WILL PROVIDE
STUDENT DINING
SERVICES CURRENTLY
OFFERED IN THE
LOWER LEVEL OF CAIN
GYMNASIUM.

OCTOBER 24 •
CHARLES H. WATTS,
HODSON TRUST
CHAIRMAN, IS SPEAKER
AT DEDICATION OF
\$53,000 HODSON
HALL; MUSIC IS
FURNISHED BY
STUDENT TRUMPET
QUARTET.

1937

FEBRUARY 19 •
SEVENTY-FIVE COUPLES
DANCE IN THE GYM TO
THE MUSIC OF BOB
CRAIG'S ORCHESTRA
DURING THE SCHOOL'S
FIRST JUNIOR PROM.

APRIL 30 • PORTRAITS
OF COLLEGE
BENEFACATORS
COLONEL AND MRS.
CLARENCE HODSON
ARE UNVEILED IN
HODSON HALL.



Perhaps the most distinguishing interior feature of the Hynson-Ringgold House is the "antler" staircase, handcarved from walnut under the direction of architect William Buckland. In this 1985 photo, Winston, Doug and Libby Cater's Irish setter, relaxes in the study alcove.

the house, visitors were the local gentry, legal personnel and the literati of the county, the College, the Shore, and the rest of the state.

Now the house entered upon a very different life. Senator James Alfred Pearce, "Jim" to his many friends, had a family also. In the home were the children of his first marriage, including James "Alf" Jr., aged thirteen when the house was bought. The second Mrs. Pearce was the former Matilda Cox Ringgold, the daughter of Richard Ringgold and a fifth-generation descendant of Thomas the Merchant.

Senator Pearce had been a member of the House of Representatives for eight years, and was now in the U.S. Senate. He had played a crucial part in the Compromise of 1850, and was credited with making the Compromise possible, avoiding Civil War for a decade. It was he who offered the amendment to Clay's Omnibus Bill, designed to settle the dispute over the new lands won in the Mexican War. Senator Pearce's amendment defeated Clay's bill, but settled the question of the boundary between New Mexico and Texas. Visitors of national prominence came to the house—Daniel Webster and Henry Clay had visited on the farm at Ellerslie, but died before Senator Pearce acquired the house. Sam Houston came to visit and ate crabs and oysters; the directors of the Smithsonian and the Botanical Gardens came and advised on plantings and discussed the Wilkes Expeditionary Force, which Congress had sent to chart and map the West Coast and the Pacific Isles. Rembrandt Peale was a friend.

Many senators and judges came. First among them was a fellow Chestertownian, Ezekiel Forman Chambers, who had served in the U.S. Senate before becoming judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Mr. Pearce was especially interested in science, agriculture, inventions—and the course of the United States. He served through the difficult expansionist period when vast tracts of land had been acquired from Mexico and dissension had arisen over their status and over the institution of slavery. Offered a cabinet post and a federal judgeship, he declined, saying he could do more for the country by remaining a senator.

While these statesmen, and perhaps their wives, had been calling in Chestertown, the family was growing up. "Alf" attended Washington College and was graduated from Princeton when he was nineteen years old. Charlotte married and became a gifted poet. Catherine Julia married a Dr. Burns from Virginia, so there were more weddings from the house. Music was in the home, and art. Senator Pearce was said to love all things beautiful. His flute is in the house now, and the chess board on which he played with Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. The back attics were finished in the 1850s, and since Senator Pearce owned a few slaves, we presume they were housed there. It was Senator Pearce who added lightning rods, a new invention, to the house.

Senator Pearce suffered from a long, terminal illness, and died in December of 1862. He had spent the months since March, when he last appeared in the

1937

MAY 5 • EPSILON-
THETA ZETA OF
LAMBDA CHI ALPHA
SUCCEEDS PHI SIGMA
TAU; FOUNDERS
INCLUDE DR.
FREDERICK
LIVINGOOD AND DR.
CHARLES CLARK.

KAPPA GAMMA
SORORITY GAINS
MEMBERSHIP IN ALPHA
CHI OMEGA AND
FORMS BETA PI
CHAPTER.

NOVEMBER 6 • ALPHA
PSI CIRCLE OF
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE CHARTERED.

APRIL 3, 1938 •
GAMMA SIGMA, A
LOCAL SORORITY
SINCE 1931, IS PLEDGED
TO NATIONAL
SORORITY ZETA TAU
ALPHA.

1938

OCTOBER 12 • DR.
JAMES W. CAIN,
COLLEGE PRESIDENT
FROM 1903 TO 1918,
DIES AT HIS HOME IN
BALTIMORE.



Before the College acquired Hynson-Ringgold House, the president and his family resided in this building, built on campus in 1902 and razed in 1973.



Displayed inside Hynson-Ringgold is the black powder rifle that belonged to the Reverend Sewell S. Hepburn, a College alumnus, rector at Kent County's Christ P.E. Church, and grandfather of actress Katharine Hepburn.

Senate, enjoying his home and his garden—he wrote of his roses and fruit trees. The donor of the font in Emmanuel Church, he turned to a deeply spiritual life.

The house was inherited by James Jr., who was then twenty-two, reading law, and not yet married. Probably he, Mrs. Pearce, and Minnie lived on in the house at least for a few years, until his marriage in 1866. Years later, James Alfred Jr., who became Judge Pearce, built the house on the northeast corner of Maple Avenue and Water Street and never lived in the Hyson-Ringgold House after his marriage. Mrs. Pearce Sr. lived until 1899, but she and Minnie did not live in the house all that time.

Since 1890, the house has had a busy life, sometimes well-cared-for, sometimes neglected. Lots were sold off on the eastern end of the property, reducing the gardens to their present size.

During the Ringgold ownership Minnie began to keep a boarding house—a very different life for the house, which was still known as "The Abbey." There are still vestiges of paper on the walls of a room in the front attic, indicating that even these rooms were occupied. It was probably during this period that the Cannon Street entrance under the antler stairway was removed and the fireplace installed.

The house was rented at least three times to widows. Mrs. Richard Hyson had four or five daughters. One of them was Caroline, who married Clifton Miller, later chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College. This family was descended from the original Nathaniel Hyson Jr., who first owned the lot, and also from Dr. Murray. When Mrs. Miller died in 1985, she left a bequest for the preservation of the house.

In 1916, the house was sold out of the family. It had belonged to and been lived in by Ringgolds and their family connections since 1767—a total of 149 years. The new owners were Henry and Ilma Pratt Catlin from New York. Mr. Catlin was a native of Chestertown, an attorney who had risen to the top of his profession representing a New York electrical company. As a young man he had boarded in the house. His career had taken him to Mexico and to Cuba to oversee the installation of electricity in Havana.

The Catlins had no children. They did much to restore and modernize the house. We think that electricity, central heating, and plumbing were all installed at this time. The porch on the garden side was added, and the lot across Water Street was cleaned up and planted with boxwood and other shrubbery. After a few years, Mr. Catlin built and developed Drayton Manor, and much of the boxwood from the house was moved to this new place. Their New York home was retained, and even though the Chestertown house was occupied only intermittently, Mrs. Catlin took much pride in it. There was not a great deal of activity in the house now, but there were some events. A graduation dance was held for one of Mr. Catlin's young cousins and a young friend from Cuba, when they

1938

OCTOBER 20 •

COLLEGE BEGINS ITS
157TH SESSION WITH
334 STUDENTS. THE
LARGEST ENROLLMENT
IN SCHOOL HISTORY;
OVERCROWDING
AMONG THE 233
BOARDERS MEANS
SOME MALES SLEEP IN
THE BASEMENT OF
WEST HALL.

1939

MARCH 18 •

TESTIMONIAL DINNER
TO HONOR TOM
KIBLER FOR 25 YEARS
AS COLLEGE ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR IS HELD IN
HODSON HALL.

APRIL 21 • THE NEW

HODSON HALL
ESCAPES SERIOUS
DAMAGE AFTER A
NIGHT WATCHMAN
DISCOVERS A KITCHEN
FIRE AND CALLS TOWN
VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT.

GAMMA BETA
CHAPTER OF ZETA TAU
ALPHA SORORITY
FORMS ON CAMPUS.



The Hynson-Ringgold House is a popular stop on Chestertown's historic home tours.

were graduated from Washington College in 1919. A Jamaican maid left to return home because she said a ghost would not let her sleep in her room in the back attic. The ghost kept brushing her fingers across the maid's face.

There have been other reports of the ghost, usually seen on the left side of the antler staircase, but we believe the last sighting was by the maid. Earlier, Barroll, in his letter to a friend in which he likened his home to an old abbey, also told of "nursery tales of ghosts in the attic," but he had not seen them.

Another widely-believed legend tells of a secret tunnel between the house and the Custom House. There is a deeply recessed alcove in the basement, and collapsed storage rooms under the front yard of the Custom House, but no evi-

dence that there was any connection between the two has ever been found, and when water and sewer lines were laid under the street, no evidence of a tunnel was found. The legend says that the tunnel went on from the house up to Washington College and was used by the Underground Railway. As children, black adults now in the town were told this by their teachers, and that Harriett Tubman came in a boat to take the runaway slaves North, threatening to shoot any child that cried. Barroll and Senator Pearce owned the house during these years of fugitive slaves. Barroll would have been an unlikely abolitionist, and Senator Pearce in Congress always upheld the rights of Southern owners of slaves, though he abhorred slavery.

During this period of restoration, a part of the house was lost. Mrs. Catlin sold the paneling, molding, and fireplace decoration of the east parlor to a Mrs. Johnson, who gave it to the Baltimore Museum of Art as a memorial to her husband. So that the room would not appear bare, Mrs. Catlin had copies of the items sold made in Cuba, and installed by a Cannon Street carpenter, William Malin.

Wilbur Hubbard feared that the house might be dismantled piecemeal and sold, so in 1944 he spearheaded a drive to raise funds to buy the residence to give to the College as a home for its president. Many of the Board members contributed substantially and this drive was successful. Much repair work on the house was needed, as well as on the grounds. Several town residents speak of the gardens as grown up like a jungle. The land was bought for \$3,000, and the house for \$12,205.70. In August of 1946, Dr. Gilbert Mead moved in with his wife and two sons, and the house heard young voices and entertained more widely again. It lost its name "The Abbey," which it had held for 110 years, though during that time it had also been called the Pearce House, the Ringgold House or the Spencer House. The name Hynson-Ringgold House was adopted by the College to honor Thomas Ringgold who had enlarged and so improved Dr. Murray's house, and to honor also Nathaniel Hynson, the first owner of the lot. The College also wanted to honor Mrs. Lelia Hynson, the daughter of Col. Clarence Hodson, because she had for so many years furthered the interest of the College with the Hodson Trust, as well as remembering the College with her own interest and generosity, while a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors.

The Meads lived there for four years, and many College functions were held in the house. After Dr. Mead's death, the house received the new president, Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson and his family, in 1950.

Again many College functions were held here, as were informal gatherings and activities for youth. Dignitaries and faculty were entertained often. Mrs. Gibson was an accomplished pianist. Not only was there music in the house, but she accompanied the Washington College chorus, both on a regular basis and

1939

JUNE 5 • MARYLAND
GOVERNOR HERBERT
R. O'CONOR, LATER
TO SERVE IN THE U.S.
SENATE, IS AWARDED
AN HONORARY
DEGREE AT
COMMENCEMENT;
STEEL FLAG POLE, GIFT
OF MRS. W.W.
HUBBARD AND
WILBUR R. HUBBARD,
IS DEDICATED.

1940

JANUARY 16 •
COLLEGE'S NEW
\$80,000 SCIENCE HALL,
NAMED FOR DONOR
DR. H.A.B. DUNNING,
IS DEDICATED.

FEBRUARY 24 • NEW
\$100,000 BUNTING-
FONWELL LIBRARY IS
DEDICATED; DR.
ROBERT M. LESTER,
SECRETARY OF THE
CARNEGIE CORP., IS
SPEAKER.

MARCH 1 • THETA CHI
FRATERNITY CHAPTER
BETA ETA IS INSTALLED
ON CAMPUS;
UNOFFICIAL GROUP
BEGAN IN 1928 WHEN
11 MALES MET
SECRETLY IN SMITH
HALL.



The gardens of Hynson-Ringgold House flourished under the care of Irna and Karl Miller. They created a nineteenth-century style garden, with trees, shrubbery, and flowering plants.

when they toured Europe. One annual affair was a Christmas luncheon following the annual bird count in the county.

Dr. Gibson retired in 1970, after twenty years at the College and in the house. He was followed by Dr. Charles Merdinger. At Dr. Merdinger's inauguration in May 1971, more than 100 learned societies, universities, and colleges were represented and some guests stayed at the house. Chief Justice Warren Burger was the most notable of the guests. Dr. Merdinger resigned in February 1973.

The new president was Dr. Joseph McLain, inaugurated in February of 1974, after a year as acting president. For a year the house was unoccupied. The central hallway floor had developed a sag, and investigation showed extensive work was necessary on foundations and sill supports under the structure. While this was

being done in the front basement, it was necessary to dig back to the original foundation. The front basement is now as it was when Dr. Murray built the house.

At the same time, the old kitchen at the back of the house was turned into a den for the president's family. Long ago it had been a garage with a covered fireplace, cement floor, and a small lavatory for the maid. That wall was removed; the beautiful old fireplace and warming oven beside it restored; the cement floor was removed and replaced with brick in what is believed to be the original pattern; and the garage doors were removed and replaced with a wall and a door with antique hardware leading to Cannon Street. The Maryland Historical Society contributed \$10,000 to this project and sent as many as four architects to advise on the restoration. Mr. and Mrs. Karl Miller of River House, Chestertown, donated the hardware.

Dr. McLain died in 1981 and was succeeded by President Douglass Cater. He and Mrs. Cater had four children, all grown and living elsewhere, but one daughter was married at the house.

The Caters spent many years in Washington, D.C., moving in journalistic, governmental, and social circles. A consequence was that national figures were entertained in the house, among them Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Lady Bird Johnson, Liz Carpenter, Roger Mudd, Mortimer Adler, Henry Steele Commager, Bill Moyers, Hodding Carter Jr., former Ambassador to China Arthur W. Hummer Jr., Najeeb Halaby, chairman of the Board of Trustees of American University in Beirut, Walter Cronkite, Dr. Lewis Thomas, William Styron, and Richard Wilbur. **W**

1940

JUNE 13 • FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE SENATOR GARRETT A. FOXWELL, TRUSTEES DECIDE NEW LIBRARY SHOULD BE NAMED FOR GEORGE AVERY BUNTING.

1941

JUNE 2 • STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PETITIONS COLLEGE TRUSTEES FOR A CAMPUS INFIRMARY AND A RESIDENT NURSE.

DECEMBER 7 • HARRY J. HICKS, MAGNA CUM LAUDE MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 1939, ESCAPES SERIOUS INJURY ABOARD THE U.S.S. *Pelias* IN PEARL HARBOR WHEN THE JAPANESE ATTACK.

1942

FEBRUARY 21 • COLLEGE ADOPTS ACCELERATED ACADEMIC SCHEDULE TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST THAT MALE STUDENTS BE GRADUATED BEFORE THEY TURN 20, THE AGE FOR MILITARY DRAFT.

Campus Landmarks Recall Historic Ties

Just as the scent of a newly opened textbook might rekindle old College memories, so too do visual images. Some, like the Brick Walk, the Elm, and the statue of George Washington, create picturesque scenes imbued with a sense of history. Others, like the old water tower, possess purely sentimental value. Yet all have stories to tell about rites of passage into adulthood.

Dr. Cain and the Brick Walk

WHEN JAMES W. CAIN ARRIVED IN CHESTERTOWN in 1903 to assume his new duties as president of Washington College, he found, among other things, that the campus walkway along College Avenue was covered with boards. Cain and the trustees decided that a brick sidewalk would be a proper addition to the campus. The building of the walk had a profound effect upon Dr. Cain's son, James M. Cain, who graduated from the College in 1910 and was a faculty member before he pursued a career in journalism and fiction writing. Cain's novels—*The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *Double Indemnity* and *Mildred Pearce*—made him one of the most popular American authors in the first half of the century and several were produced as successful screen productions. Author Roy Hoopes, who was head of College Relations



Novelist James Cain was just a boy when his father, who was College President, had the brick walk installed. Young Cain picked up the cadence of the working man's language as brick mason Ike Newton laid the walk.



*A couple strolls down
"Lovers Walk" in 1959.*

briefly during the administration of President Douglass Cater, described the significance of the brick walk on American letters in his book *Cain: The Biography of James M. Cain*:

Dr. Cain knew a bricklayer named Ike Newton who could do the job, and soon alternate piles of white sand and bricks were placed upon the route the walk was to take. Then one day Ike Newton appeared. Ike was a stocky, powerful man in jeans and boots, who would squat on the ground as he chipped the bricks with the edge of his hammer—and talk and talk and talk. And there was always one person who could be counted on to listen—the president's son, Jamie Cain.

What fascinated Jamie, who had been coached continually by his father and mother to use proper language, was the way Ike Newton talked. Not what he said, but how he said it. For the first time, Jamie was hearing the language of an uneducated but articulate person. Just as Jonathan Swift liked to sit in taverns and on the greens listening to the talk of teamsters and coachmen, and Stephen Crane would sit by the hour listening to Bowery bums, Jamie Cain listened to Ike Newton and was spellbound by the rhythm and tempo of his speech. He began speaking like Ike at home, to the horror of his mother, who called such talk "low." But Jamie was carried away by the beautiful bounce and rolling cadences of Ike Newton's speech. He hung on his every word as "brick by brick and sandpile by sandpile, the brick walk got built. It was a miracle of perfect slope, grading and crown." Ike Newton's brick walk, sometimes called "lovers' lane," is still there on the Washington College campus—a monument to the development of one of the finest writing styles in American literature. "Later," wrote James M. Cain, "my dialogue would be praised off and on by critics, and I would save myself argument by acknowledging debts to various experts on the 'vulgate,' as H.L. Mencken called it. But actually, if a writer owes a debt to what his ears pick up, mine would be to Ike."

The George Washington Stone

ON OCTOBER 22, 1925, the Old Kent Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented the College with a tablet and stone to memorialize the granting of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws to George



Washington did not visit campus to receive his honorary degree from Washington College—William Smith instead presented it to him in New York. The Daughters of the American Revolution placed this solid reminder of that connection on the walk leading to William Smith Hall in 1925.

Washington in 1789. The stone, of native granite from the hills of Cecil County, was placed at the end of the walk leading to William Smith Hall. The presentation speech was delivered by Mrs. William G. Smyth, DAR regent. The tablet was unveiled by Lillian Brown and Elizabeth Titsworth, daughters respectively of Mrs. William T. Brown, vice regent of Old Kent Chapter, and College President Paul E. Titsworth.

Titsworth wrote that he looked forward to the day when the campus would be enclosed by a low brick wall of colonial pattern. Entrance to the campus would be by way of three gateways on the Washington Avenue side. The major gateway would be placed over the driveway leading to East, Middle and West halls. A second gateway would be placed over the projected sidewalk, which was to lead to the proposed dormitory to be erected at the south side of the campus. This sidewalk would parallel the walk to William Smith Hall. The third gateway

1942

SEPTEMBER 21 •
COLLEGE TRUSTEES
VOTE TO ESTABLISH A
DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF SCIENCE IN
EDUCATION.

1943

OCTOBER 22 • COACH
"DUTCH" DUMSCHOTT
ANNOUNCES THAT
HOME BASKETBALL
WILL BE PLAYED IN
CAIN GYMNASIUM THIS
YEAR, MEANING
PLAYERS NO LONGER
WILL HAVE TO WALK TO
THE CHESTERTOWN
ARMORY FOR THE
GAMES.

OCTOBER 25 • RED
CROSS MOBILE UNIT
ARRIVES IN
CHESTERTOWN; 23
STUDENTS RESPOND BY
DONATING PLASMA
FOR THE WAR EFFORT.

THANKSGIVING DAY •
COLLEGE STUDENTS
RESPOND TO CALL FOR
HELP IN
EXTINGUISHING A
WOODS FIRE THAT HAS
BEEN BURNING FOR
TWO DAYS SIX MILES
EAST OF CHURCH
HILL.



he planned to place over the walk leading to William Smith Hall. In that same article Titsworth reported that the grounds of Reid Hall were receiving "artistic attention" with the laying out of a brick walk lined with box and other shrubs native to or readily grown in this part of Maryland.

As a result of the efforts of the Blue Key Fraternity, an honorary fraternity on campus, the student body for the year 1928-29 contributed \$1,000 for the purpose of erecting an ornamental gateway at the memorial stone and entrance to the campus leading to William Smith Hall. Embedded in each pillar of the gateway was a limestone shield with the years of the four classes—1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932—that had contributed to this project.

The brick sidewalk—once the main portion of the so-called "Sacred L" thoroughfare used by generations of students—was pulled up and the gateway closed in 1998 after increased traffic on Washington Avenue made it unsafe for students to cross the road at that location.

The George Washington Statue

HE STANDS AT THE FOOT of the historic Hill Dorms, shaded by trees and guarded by boxwood. George Washington, the college's founding patron, presides over graduation ceremonies and weddings. He is draped with Christmas garland, included in champagne toasts and fraternity pranks, and photographed relentlessly. He withstands it all with his proud military bearing.

Created in bronze and presented as a gift to the College by sculptor Lee Lawrie, the George Washington statue was installed in 1957 to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Washington College. Immediately preceding Fall Convocation ceremonies on October 20th, Miss Hannah Fairfax Washington, a direct descendent of the Washington family, unveiled the statue.

Among those present for the exercises were 120 delegates from American colleges, universities, learned societies, and associations, as well as alumni and friends of the College.

Opposite, some men deserve to be put on pedestals. Here, workmen lower the statue of George Washington into position as the sculptor, Lee Lawrie, and others look on.

1944

FEBRUARY 22 • A
PORTRAIT OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON PAINTED
IN 1803 BY
REMBRANDT PEALE IS
PRESENTED TO THE
COLLEGE BY JAMES M.
SWARTZ AND JAMES W.
STEVENS IN MEMORY
OF THEIR FATHERS.

MARCH 13 • CITING
FINANCIAL AND
SCHEDULING PROBLEMS
IN SECURING AN
ORCHESTRA, COLLEGE
FRATERNITIES CANCEL
THE UPCOMING
SATURDAY NIGHT
DANCE.

SEPTEMBER 11 • AFTER
A LENGTHY ILLNESS,
DR. J. S. WILLIAM JONES
'89, THE OLDEST
MEMBER OF THE
FACULTY, DIES AT HIS
HOME ON
WASHINGTON STREET
IN CHESTERTOWN.

SEPTEMBER 30 • FIRST
LADY ANNA ELEANOR
ROOSEVELT DRAWS A
CHECK FOR \$25 FROM
THE FIFTH AVENUE
BANK OF NEW YORK
AND SENDS IT TO
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE FOR THE
MEMORIAL FUND SET
UP IN MEMORY OF THE
LATE DEAN JONES.



The Washington Elm

SIXTY-THREE YEARS after it was ceremoniously planted in the center of campus, the Washington Elm—a descendant of the tree under which General George Washington took command of the American forces on July 3, 1775, in Cambridge, Massachusetts—was felled. The giant landmark had succumbed to Dutch Elm disease and so, on August 7, 1991, workers with chain saws dismantled the tree.

“The elm tree is dead. An era, almost a legend, is gone,” intoned an editorial writer for *The Elm*, the student newspaper named for the tree.

The seedling was planted as part of a Parents Day program at the College on April 26, 1928. The tree was a gift of Mrs. James A. Dorsey, chairwoman of the Maryland Daughters of the American Revolution Committee on Conservation and Thrift, who was present that day with members of the Old Kent Chapter, D.A.R.

In her address, entitled “Presentation of Grandson of Washington Elm to Old Kent Chapter,” Mrs. Dorsey explained that Washington College was chosen to receive the seedling because the school had been visited by General Washington and is the only college in the country named for him with his personal consent.

The tree was rededicated on Saturday, October 1, 1931, when the Old Kent Chapter placed a tablet at the base of its trunk. The event was witnessed by the local chapter as well as by many other guests. The seedling prospered over the years and was one of the most attractive features of the campus.

On September 2, 1993, Grand Marshal Ermon Foster led his 128th and final academic procession at Fall Convocation, where he was presented with a replica of the College mace carved of wood saved after the Washington Elm was cut down. Furniture maker Frank B. Rhodes Jr., Class of 1983, crafted that mace. He subsequently used wood from the Elm to build a lectern decorated with the carved College seal, and presented it to the College in January 1999. Former President George H. W. Bush was the first College guest to use that lectern.

Opposite, the Washington Elm not only symbolized the College's historic beginnings, but conveyed a sense of place. Students enjoyed outdoor classes under its branches, found a quiet reading spot in its shade, and kissed and courted in its shadows.

1944

OCTOBER 20 • THE MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT OPENS A LANGUAGE LABORATORY IN THE BASEMENT OF WILLIAM SMITH HALL.

NOVEMBER 3 • THE LONG-AWAITED COLLEGE MUSEUM OPENS ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY.

NOVEMBER • COLLEGE TRUSTEES ACCEPT GIFT OF “THE ABBEY,” LATER KNOWN AS THE HYNSON-RINGGOLD HOUSE, AS HOME FOR PRESIDENT WILBUR R. HUBBARD HEADS GROUP ACQUIRING THE 18TH-CENTURY STRUCTURE.

1945

FEBRUARY 21 • HIRAM S. BROWN, NEARING HIS 25TH YEAR AS A COLLEGE TRUSTEE AND 23RD YEAR AS BOARD CHAIRMAN, SUBMITS HIS RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE WHEN HIS TERM EXPIRES IN JUNE.

FALL • FOR THE FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE HISTORY, STUDENTS FROM THE WESTERN SHORE OUTNUMBER STUDENTS FROM THE EASTERN SHORE, 143-136.

Ode to the Washington Elm

dear old tree...

Try. Please fight for your life.
I, We, beseech thee.

Or are you tired?

Tired of bearing the brittle weight of your age
and of listening to the crackings and rattle of your
old limbs;
so patient and tolerant of our struggles
to keep you.

You cannot be made to stay;
already you have graced us for so long.

If you are tired, then go...

freed from the stab of our saws and the indignity
of our machines.

You'll no longer be audience to the dramas we've
unfolded
beneath your green curtain.

Leave us, if you must.

But not to be parceled off to the hard white skies
of laboratories,
and never to go to ash in some unholy fire lit
by those
who do not know you,
respect you,
or love you,
unconsecrated.

Better to heave one last sigh
and fall to ground here.
With dedication to molder to earth ...here,
and be hallowed still,
forever.



*Tree surgeons take down the diseased Elm,
limb by limb, on August 7, 1991. They
found this poem pinned to the tree.*

The Water Tower

by Marshall Williams M'92

Williams is the former special events coordinator at the College.

A WATER TOWER MARKS almost every town on the Eastern Shore. In this flat and lakeless landscape each town's tower has become a cherished landmark. Yet Chestertown's water tower has been more closely associated with the College than with the town.

Built in 1915, the 80-foot tall tower was erected on College Hill to take advantage of its situation as the highest point in town. In 1915 the tower was a lonely structure hovering over farmhouses and cornfields. In later years it was crowded by an expanding campus. Finally, with the removal of Gibson Avenue and the construction of the Eugene B. Casey Academic Center, the water tower was squeezed out of existence in 1990.

In its 75 years the water tower was a friendly and helpful neighbor for townspeople and college students alike. For local citizens returning from a trip, the water tower was the first sign that Chestertown was near, and many families would make a game of who would be the first to see the tower. Now, the cupola of the Casey Academic Center, almost as tall, serves the same purpose.

For college students, the tower served as a billboard to advertise athletic scores, fraternity symbols, and all manner of friendly and not-so-friendly messages. An important rite of passage for many students was to climb the tower's ladder to the platform encircling the tank. The reward was an unparalleled view of the College, the town, and the Chester's sweep from Henderson's Wharf to Devil's Reach.

The very brave student would stand on the silver ball at the very top, but sitting was not impossible. Silk parachutes, water bombs, hats, and chickens are just some of the things that have been launched from the tower. Banners have been draped from the top, and deer have been hung from its lower girders by student hunters.

In the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, football and baseball scores dominated the water tower, and everyone knew they could get the latest news of WC's exploits on the field—both home and away—by checking the tower. During World War II the prevailing message was, "Kilroy Was Here." Later, tower decorations ran to fraternity advertisements, and the Sigs most adventurously made a habit of climbing to the very top of the tower and painting a message that could be seen only by airplane.

Like a magnet, the water tower attracted all sorts of pranksters. One student in the 1950s taped a walkie-talkie at the top of the tower and frightened passersby with threats of "I'm going to jump, I'm going to jump." The police and fire department arrived and eventually discovered the hoax; the prankster was never caught.

1945

OCTOBER • COLLEGE

BOARD CREATES
POSITION OF DEAN OF
MEN, APPOINTS LT.
COL. "COACH" TOM
KIBLER TO POST.

NOVEMBER 12 • THE
HODSON TRUST
PLEDGES \$50,000 FOR A
NEW DORMITORY.

1946

JANUARY 10 • CITING
HIGH LABOR AND
MATERIAL COSTS,

PRESIDENT MEAD
CONFIDES TO TRUSTEES
THAT THE \$50,000
HODSON TRUST
PLEDGE IS NOT
ENOUGH TO ERECT
PLANNED DORMITORY.

MARCH 2 • LOCAL
FRATERNITY PHI
SIGMA PHI INSTALLED
AS BETA ETA CHAPTER
OF NATIONAL
FRATERNITY THETA
CHL.

APRIL 12 • BARRACKS-
LIKE STRUCTURE WEST
OF DUNNING SCIENCE
HALL IS BUILT TO HELP
ALLEVIATE STUDENT
OVERCROWDING.

MAY 9 • THE
REACTIVATED SOCIETY
OF SCIENCES MEETS IN
WILLIAM SMITH HALL
WITH GUEST DR. LE
BARON TO DISCUSS
CLAIRVOYANCE,
PSYCHOKINESIS, AND
MENTAL TELEPATHY.



Surprisingly, no one was ever hurt climbing the water tower. Its demise caused an outcry of dismay among those who considered it a friendly accomplice to the exploits of tower-climbers and campus artists and philosophers indulging in self-expression.

Perhaps the most provocative writing on the tower was in the turbulent years of desegregation in the early 1960s. Volunteer Freedom Riders, college students canvassing Southern towns promoting desegregation, based themselves at the College when they arrived on the Eastern Shore. Disgruntled protesters climbed the tower with additional ladders and diligently printed “Booker T. Washington College” in perfect lettering.

How vital was the water tower to the academic life of Washington College? Alumni Director P. Trans Hollingsworth '75 remembers a science professor asking students to determine the circumference of the water tower. After puzzling over the seemingly impossible task, Trans came up with what she thought was the perfect solution—she climbed the tower and measured the tank with a tape.

The water tower has played an active role in the romantic life of students as well. Mike Travieso '66 describes a scene with his girlfriend, Bonnie Abrams, following a college dance. “We had a fight,” Mike remembers, “and Bonnie and I were really mad with each other. So to protest, I climbed up the tower—I’d never climbed it before. I went all the way up, to the ball on top, and started yelling Bonnie’s name over the campus. I guess her friends went to get her, and she came out and got me to come down, and we made up.” Mike and Bonnie, both attorneys, were married on July 5, 1968.

Chas. Foster '89 climbed the water tower many times making experiments with graffiti, posters, and banners hung from the side. He would gallantly offer to paint women’s names up on the tower, and after seeing the movie “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” Chas. undertook to write “Cathy Jewell is a Righteous Babe” as a token of affection for his girlfriend.

To paint this message above all the other graffiti covering the side of the tank, Chas fashioned a spray-paint holder out of a broom handle with lengths of string to activate the paint can. He made it as far as “Cathy Jewell is a Righteous B...” when the string broke. Rather than embarrass or anger his girlfriend with this questionable, unfinished statement, Chas. climbed up and stood on the top of the railing that encircles the tower to complete his message. “I guess that was pretty stupid,” he says looking back on this foolish bravery. “Anyway, Cathy said the whole thing was pretty stupid. She would deny that it was about her.” They, too, were later married.

On the eve of the tower’s demise, three students claimed to be the last to climb the water tower. On April 11, 1990, Don Steele '91, Jeff Heubeck '91, and Mike Gaucher '91 climbed the tower ladder up to the tank, which had already lost its roof. They fondly touched the belly of the tank and climbed back down. “It was one of the best,” says Steele. “When we got down we saw a window open in the new Academic Center. We went inside and climbed up to the cupola, where the view is almost as good as from the tower. We thought maybe we’d started a new tradition.” **W**

1946

MAY 25 • TRUSTEES
INCREASE SALARY
SCALE BY 15 PERCENT;
FULL PROFESSORS TO
RECEIVE \$3,450,
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
\$2,875, AND
INSTRUCTORS \$2,185.

SEPTEMBER 23 •
CLASSES FOR THE NEW
TERM BEGIN WITH 450
STUDENTS ENROLLED.

OCTOBER 29 •
FRATERNITY COUNCIL
VOTES TO ALLOW
WOMEN TO VISIT FRAT
HOUSES BETWEEN 2:30
AND 7:00 SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS,
PROVIDED
CHAPERONES ARE
PRESENT.

HALLOWEEN • A
STUDENT CLIMBS THE
WATER TOWER AND
LEAVES A LARGE IMAGE
OF THE CHARACTER
KILROY.

G.I. HALL OPENS TO
ACCOMMODATE 50
WAR VETERANS WHO
HAVE ENROLLED
UNDER THE G.I. BILL.

Celebrating Our Past

There are many colleges and universities associated with George Washington, yet Washington College is the only one to which America's founding father gave his name while he was living. It also has the distinction of being the only college on whose board he served. Chartered in 1782 under his patronage, it is the first college founded in the new nation. With his death in 1799, George Washington was revered as an heroic soldier and political leader of humble character, and immediately achieved a kind of immortality as an American symbol. As the nation commemorated the milestones of his life—his birth and death and legacy, so too did Washington College.

Remembering the Ties that Bind

THE YEAR 1932 marked two important dates in the history of Washington College—the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, and the 150th anniversary of the College's founding. At President Titsworth's urging, the celebrations were held on the same day, June 11, 1932. Kent County was particularly interested in participating in this celebration because of its close relationship with George Washington.

1947

NOVEMBER 1 • COACH
TOM KIBLER'S
RETIREMENT PARTY
DRAWS A CROWD OF
250, INCLUDING
BROOKLYN DODGER
PRESIDENT BRANCH
RICKEY AND TWO OF
KIBLER'S FORMER
STARS, CHICAGO CUBS
OUTFIELDER BILL
NICHOLSON AND
MILWAUKEE BREWERS
GENERAL MANAGER
JAKE FLOWERS.



A cameo of George Washington was presented to the College by Baron Frederick von Prittwitz und Gaffron, German ambassador to the United States, on the occasion of the College's 150th anniversary.

Records indicate that Washington visited Kent County eight times when he was traveling from Mount Vernon to points on the northeastern seaboard. The route through Kent County was considered a more direct route than one north of the Elk River. Leaving Mount Vernon, Washington traveled to Annapolis, where he boarded a boat for Rock Hall in southwestern Kent County. From there he would set out northeastward, stopping at New Town (Chestertown) for a meal or for the night. From New Town he proceeded to Downs Cross Roads (Galena), then to Georgetown on the Sassafras River, his last stop in Kent County. Leaving Georgetown he would cross the river to Fredericktown in Cecil County. From Fredericktown he traveled to Warwick, Delaware, on his way to New Castle, Delaware.

The sesquicentennial events were scheduled for the morning as a part of commencement exercises. The afternoon was reserved for the bicentennial, and county residents participated in the pageantry of the celebration. To create an atmosphere reminiscent of the colonial period, everyone was asked to wear colonial dress throughout the period of the celebrations.

The opening event was a colonial ball held in the gymnasium on Friday evening. The hall was decorated to resemble the garden and front porch of Mount Vernon. The evening program began with a graceful exhibition of two minuets and a gavotte by College seniors. Following this, Titsworth, representing William Smith, placed a crown on the head of Miss Elizabeth Brice, Class of 1932, selected to represent the colonial beauty Betty Fairfax. This was followed by an evening of modern dancing.

The following morning, the College graduation exercises duplicated as nearly as possible those of the College's first Commencement in May 1783.

1948

MAY 5 • ALERT COEDS
IN REID HALL HELP
POLICE NAB A
CALIFORNIA WOMAN
WHO, POSING AS A
STUDENT, HAS MADE
HER WAY THROUGH SIX
COLLEGES STEALING
MONEY, CLOTHES, AND
JEWELRY.

1949

MARCH 17 • FILM AND
STAGE ACTOR HUME
CRONYN IS ON
CAMPUS TO PERFORM
THE LEAD ROLE IN
HAMLET.



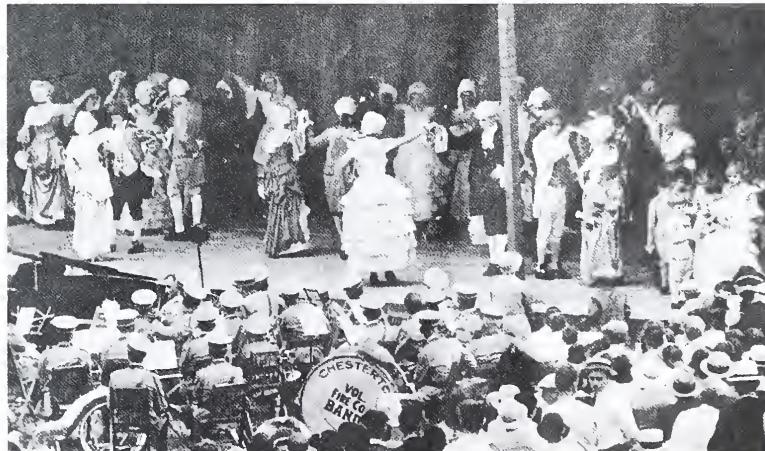
The 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth in 1932 and the 150th anniversary of the College's founding was a community affair, drawing hundreds of spectators.

Forty-one graduates were awarded their diplomas. Addresses were delivered by Governor Albert C. Ritchie; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior; and Baron Friederick von Prittitz und Gaffron, German ambassador to the United States.

The afternoon was devoted to sketches portraying the life of Washington. The program opened with a parade of floats, each relating some phase in Washington's life. Arriving on campus, children from the various schools in the county presented short plays reminiscent of Washington's visits to Kent County. Finally, students of Washington College reenacted a portion of the play *Gustavus Vasa*, which was played for Washington in 1784 when he visited the College. In concluding its account of the various activities associated with the celebrations, the *Chestertown Enterprise* wrote:

The various committees, which had in charge the detail work of the celebration, deserve the thanks and appreciation of the citizens of Kent, but, after all, one man and one man alone stands out as the guiding spirit behind both celebrations and to him Kent Countians should pay a just tribute.

Since coming to Chestertown as the head of Washington College some years ago, Dr. Paul E. Titsworth has made things hum at the old institution on the hill and gradually his enthusiasm and pep have spread to Chestertown and Kent County.



Students in period costumes perform a colonial dance during the 200th anniversary celebration of Washington's birth.

1949

AUGUST 10 • COLLEGE ALUMNI URGE ELECTION OF J. THOMAS "COACH" KIBLER TO SUCCEED THE LATE GILBERT W. MEAD AS COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

SEPTEMBER 23 • CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED ON GARRETT FOXWELL HALL, A ONE-STORY DORMITORY ON CAMPUS AVENUE OPPOSITE G.I. HALL.

1950

APRIL 1 • BOARD ELECTS CAPTAIN CUSTER AS COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

MAY 4 • COLONEL HIRAM S. BROWN, CLASS OF 1900, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND A LONGTIME "WATCHDOG" OF COLLEGE FINANCIAL STABILITY, DIES BY HIS OWN HAND.

MAY 6 • UNWILLING TO ACCEPT CONDITIONS PRESENTED BY CAPTAIN CUSTER, BOARD NEGATES HIS ELECTION AS NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENT.



Acting President Garry Clarke (left, facing camera), Board Chairman Louis L. Goldstein, Bicentennial co-chairs P.J. Wingate '33 and Professor Peter Tapke (dropping flag), and Michael Macielag '73 (holding flag) were among those attending the closing ceremony of the bicentennial celebration.

Bicentennial Celebration Reflects Colonial Heritage

C ELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING the 200th anniversary of the founding of Washington College began with a ceremonial flag-raising on the campus lawn on October 11, 1981, and ended with the flash and thunder of more than two hundred fireworks in the evening skies over Chestertown on May 15, 1982.

Despite a touch of sadness—Joseph H. McLain, the College alumnus and president who had eagerly anticipated the occasion, had died two months earlier—the celebration was filled with fanfare and festivity enough to compensate for a centennial anniversary that had passed quietly due to financial constraints.

The flag-raising was conducted by Maryland Governor Harry Hughes, Acting College President Garry Clarke, Student Government Association President Arlene Lee, and Alumni Association President Michael Macielag. Representatives from forty colleges and universities and twenty-three learned societies, churches, and civic organizations participated.

To the accompaniment of the Tench Tilghman Fife and Drum Corps of Chestertown and the Denny and Dunipace Pipe Band, a procession of College officials, alumni, faculty, students and guests made its way down College Avenue to Emmanuel Episcopal Church for a convocation to honor William Smith, College founder and first president. Smith's Scottish heritage was underscored by the appearance of Sir Fraser Noble, principal and vice chancellor of the University of Aberdeen. Noble and Whitfield J. Bell Jr., a Benjamin Franklin scholar, were granted honorary degrees.

Nine speakers addressed the Convocation crowd. Among them was Maryland Comptroller and College Board Chairman Louis L. Goldstein, who announced that the state had agreed to provide funding for the renovation of the historic Hill dorms. The College, again experiencing money woes, had recently launched a fund-raising campaign with a goal of more than ten million dollars.

Other activities of the day included a visit to Chestertown by the *Pride of Baltimore*, a replica nineteenth-century clipper, the first of the "Meaning of Freedom" lecture series, an exhibition of the photographs of Constance Stuart Larrabee, an alumni lacrosse game, and a soccer game. The annual homecoming weekend was combined with the opening of the Bicentennial celebration.

During the next seven months, many of the College's cultural and academic events were linked to the bicentennial. The Sophie Kerr Committee brought to campus such noted writers as W.S. Merwin, Edward Albee, John Barth, and Richard Wilbur. William Colby, Central Intelligence Agency director, came to the campus to speak, as did former Iran hostage Bruce Laingen. The College Music

1950

JUNE 3 • BOARD
UNANIMOUSLY ELECTS
DR. DANIEL Z. GIBSON,
FORMERLY DEAN AT
FRANKLIN AND
MARSHALL COLLEGE,
AS COLLEGE
PRESIDENT.

1952

MAY 31 • PRESIDENT
DANIEL GIBSON
RECOMMENDS THAT
COLLEGE DIPLOMA BE
MADE OF REAL
SHEEPSKIN.

1953

MARCH 14 • COLLEGE
BOARD REACTS TO
CONGRESSIONAL
INVESTIGATION OF
COMMUNIST
INFILTRATION INTO
HIGHER EDUCATION
WITH STATEMENT THAT
NO ONE WITH
"COMMUNIST OR
OTHER TOTALITARIAN
TIES" IS ON CAMPUS.

JUNE 1 • AMENDMENT
TO COLLEGE CHARTER,
SIGNED INTO LAW BY
GOV. THEODORE R.
MCKELDIN, INCREASES
BOARD MEMBERSHIP
FROM 25 TO 36.

Department conducted two outdoor “Bach’s Lunch” concerts and the Drama Department produced plays by Landford Wilson and R. B. Sheridan.

In the midst of the celebration, trustees elected Douglass Cater new College president, although he was not inaugurated until October, several months after the official close of the bicentennial celebration.

The May 15, 1982, fireworks display—a \$10,000 spectacle featuring colorful weeping willow and humming bird rockets—was dedicated to the memory of Joseph H. McLain, an expert in the field of pyrotechnics.

Remembering the Legacy of George Washington

TWO HUNDRED YEARS after his death, the College community sought to dispel the myths surrounding George Washington and to come to a greater understanding of the man’s true character and motivation. As the College launched a \$72 million Campaign for Washington’s College to underwrite its future, it embarked on an 18-month-long examination of his life and his immense influence on our identity as a nation and as a college of the liberal arts and sciences.

“He was a man of diverse achievements as a surveyor, commander, statesman, architect, farmer, and philanthropist,” remarked College President John Toll.

Through a series of lectures and exhibits that began in September 1998, the College community came to know him in all those roles. Among those Washingtonian historians and writers who visited campus were Robert and Lee Dalzell, Doris Kearns Goodwin, R. Don Higginbotham, Charlene Bangs Bickford, William Martin, and Richard Norton Smith. George and Barbara Bush and John F. Kennedy Jr. also paid homage to Washington during their campus visits.

At the Fall Convocation in September 1998 Smith shared some revelations about the nation’s first President. Washington’s penchant for cracking Brazil nuts with his teeth was at the root of his dental problems. Early American dentists ill-fitted him with false teeth made of hippopotamus tusk, not wood, and he dosed himself with laudanum, an opium derivative, for the constant pain. Washington himself disproved the sentimental tale of a youth hurling a silver dollar across the wide Rappahannock River, for no man was less inclined to throw money away. Most significantly, Smith said, George Washington not only told lies, he lived them, by convincing everyone he was no politician. Washington was the nation’s first actor-president.

In his book *Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation*, Smith portrays Washington as a politically judicious statesman who met enormous chal-

lenges. "In short, George Washington was a strong leader of a weak nation," Smith said. "His vision of the American republic was in many ways an extension of his own character. Because he credited harsh self-discipline in realizing his personal destiny, he embraced an energetic government as the only means of protecting the American union from flying apart. Because he balanced executive vigor with personal restraint, he gave us a government strong enough to lead and wise enough to listen."

The letters and personal effects of Washington also provided insight into his character. Through a partnership with the Mount Vernon Ladies Society, the College hosted receptions for alumni and friends to view the traveling exhibits: "Treasures from Mt. Vernon: George Washington Revealed" and "George Washington: The Man Behind the Mask" at the New-York Historical Society and at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond.

Former First Lady of Virginia Jeannie Baliles '62 remarked, "These exhibits at the Historical Society offered many illustrations of George Washington's dedication to the education of American citizens. Washington College alumni are proud of their unique relationship with the father of our country. I'm also confident that George Washington would be proud of our College and its 217-year legacy of educating students for leadership roles."

On Washington's birthday in February 1999, presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin offered a walking tour of presidential history, with anecdotes and personal glimpses of Washington, Lincoln, FDR, Lyndon Johnson, and Bill Clinton.

George Washington's regal bearing brought instant *gravitas* to the fledgling office of president, she remarked. She corroborated Smith's view of Washington as a politically savvy man who publicly distanced himself from politics. "The president must be above politics yet intensely political," she said. "Only the great presidents [like George Washington] have been able to hold within themselves those contradictory demands."

Both were war heroes, both served as President of the United States, and both are recognized for their integrity as true men of honor. But only my George has jumped out of an airplane at 12,500 feet.

Barbara Pierce Bush, in noting the similarities between "my George and your George" during Winter Convocation in January 1999. She and her husband were awarded honorary doctor of public service degrees.

1954

JUNE 5 • BOARD
CHAIRMAN JOHN H.
HESSEY ANNOUNCES A
\$75,000 GIFT FROM
GLENN L. MARTIN FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF A
NEW WOMEN'S
RESIDENCE HALL;
COLONIAL-STYLE
DORM WILL BE NAMED
MINA MARTIN HALL
AFTER THE DONOR'S
MOTHER.

OCTOBER 23 • BOARD
AGREES TO MOVE
SNACK BAR FROM
BASEMENT OF WILLIAM
SMITH HALL TO
BASEMENT OF HODSON
HALL.

1955

JANUARY 29 • COLLEGE
JOINS STUDENT
EXCHANGE PROGRAM
WITH 100 OTHER
SCHOOLS, ALLOWING
CHILDREN OF FACULTY
TO ATTEND MEMBER
SCHOOLS TUITION-
FREE.

OCTOBER 22 • BOARD
LEARNS THAT
PRESIDENT DANIEL
GIBSON HAS DECLINED
OFFER TO BE
PRESIDENT OF
MARTHA WASHINGTON
COLLEGE; INCREASES
HIS SALARY BY \$2,000;
MINA MARTIN HALL
IS DEDICATED.

JFK Jr. Encourages Graduates to Pursue Lives of Service

John F. Kennedy Jr., founding editor of *George* magazine, caused a flurry of media attention on campus when he appeared during Commencement ceremonies on May 23, 1999. Tragically, it was one of his last public appearances before he was killed in a plane crash in July 1999.

The seniors cheered loudly when Kennedy described his "little epiphany" that morning. "Here I've named my magazine after you, you've got this nice town Kennedyville down the road, and I'm thinking: why didn't I go to Washington College?"

Kennedy was awarded a citation for his charitable work with Reaching Up, a nonprofit organization he founded that helps train and educate the working poor in order to advance their careers in providing health services for people with disabili-

ties. Kennedy praised Washington College students for their own acts of service—tutoring schoolchildren, volunteering for Casey Time, maintaining trails and beaches, and volunteering with Special Olympics.

"You have learned a great deal at this college, but your learning must continue to be a lifelong experience that is informed by your direct involvement in the lives of your fellow citizens,"

Kennedy said. "As George Washington wrote dozens of times over and over to practice his penmanship when he was a young man, 'Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.'" **[W]**



During Reunion 1999 weekend, military historian R. Donald Higginbotham gave a lecture focusing on Washington's remarkable abilities to hold together a ragtag army and a struggling new nation. "His army became a band of brothers. The army was the most visible symbol of unity for the country," he remarked. "In the same way, he sought to unify the 13 states by cementing ties and emphasizing 'union' as a dominant message."

In September 1999, the College organized an exhibition of material from the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, which surveyed images of George Washington on currency from the time of the United States' founding to the post-Civil War period. Featured in the exhibition were an English guinea and a recent issue of the U.S. Mint of a coin commemorating the 200th anniversary of Washington's death.

The practice of using the image of Washington reflects the enormous admiration 19th-century Americans had for their first president and his broad appeal as an icon for various ideologies, noted Donald A. McColl, the assistant professor

1956

JANUARY 23 •

SCULPTOR LEE LAWRIE
OFFERS SEVEN-FOOT
PLASTER STATUE OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON
FROM WHICH A
MARBLE STATUE WAS
MADE FOR
WASHINGTON
CATHEDRAL.
CATHEDRAL HAS
GRANTED PERMISSION
TO CAST BRONZE
STATUE OF
WASHINGTON WHICH
LAWRIE INTENDS TO
PRESENT TO COLLEGE.

APRIL 7 • TOP FACULTY
SALARY FOR A FULL
PROFESSOR INCREASES
FROM \$6,500 TO
MAXIMUM OF \$7,500.

JUNE 2 • WITH
COMPLETION OF
RUSSELL GYMNASIUM,
BOARD DECIDES THAT
ALL STUDENT DANCES
WILL BE HELD ON
CAMPUS.

DECEMBER 1 • THE
OPENING OF THE NEW
\$325,000 RUSSELL
GYMNASIUM IS
MARKED BY A GAME
BETWEEN THE VARSITY
BASKETBALL SQUAD
AND RETURNING
ALUMNI STARS.

of art history at Washington College who curated the exhibition with the assistance of students from the departments of art and history. McColl also arranged a visit by noted art historian Christopher Johns, who gave a presentation on the neoclassical image of George Washington.

From Indian Peace medals to Civil War “dog tags,” Washington has been seen as, among other things, *Pater Patriae*, new *Cincinnatus*, friend of commerce, and model of temperance. At the same time, his changing image bears witness to a progression in the quality of American currency from the period of dominance of British and other mints to the time when the United States boasted some of the finest designers, engravers, and die cutters in the world.

Audiences also learned a lot about George Washington and early American culture by looking at Mount Vernon. Robert and Lee Dalzell, the co-authors of *George Washington's Mount Vernon: At Home in Revolutionary America*, talked about the significance of Mount Vernon in shaping a new nation. By portraying Washington at home as he designed and shaped Mount Vernon to meet his needs, the Dalzells provided unexpected insights into his private and public personas.

“There is nothing casual or random about Mount Vernon,” the Dalzells said. “If its individual parts fail to cohere, one still senses that each of them was thoroughly thought out; that alternatives were considered and rejected; that what we see is what we were meant to see. And because of this, the place does seem to speak of the man whose will, choices, and objectives did so much to give it shape, and who was himself, after all, a singularly complex human being.”

Historical fiction writer William Martin shared some lively stories from his book *Citizen Washington*. This account of a young reporter’s search to discover George Washington’s true nature shortly after Washington’s death introduces readers to many characters who had observed “America’s first icon.” His interviewees range from Jacob, a slave at Mount Vernon, to such famous figures as Alexander Hamilton, the Marquis de Lafayette, and even Lady Washington. Martin pieces together a wide-lens, multifaceted portrait of citizen Washington, speaking through the voices of his various “testifiers.”

The scope of the Washington celebration included music and dance as well as history. The Washington College Concert Series offered a concert of colonial music. The historical dance ensemble Chorographie Antique of Goucher College and the Early Music Ensemble of Towson State University performed a program of dance and music popular during George Washington’s lifetime.

The celebration culminated on December 14, 1999—the 200th anniversary of Washington’s death, with a bell-ringing and the presentation of a wreath before the bust of George Washington, a gift of the Class of 2000. 

People Who Shaped
Washington College





The Early Presidents

It took more than a hundred years to build a viable institution. Without the status of the state or national university that George Washington and William Smith envisioned, the tiny college on Maryland's Eastern Shore struggled to survive. Because of its geographic isolation and the difficulty of travel, the College was removed from the world. Thanks to the sheer determination of its presidents, Washington College persevered. With the inauguration of President Gilbert Mead in 1933, growing academic programs, and the subsequent visits of two sitting United States presidents, the College gained greater respectability.

Overleaf: Faculty and Board members proceed to William Smith Hall for the April 11, 1924, inauguration of Paul E. Titsworth, believed to be the first such formal ceremony of its kind in Washington College history.

Colin Ferguson Witnesses Decline

ON APRIL 10, 1792, Dunlap's *American Daily Advertiser* carried a notice that the Washington College trustees planned to elect a principal and some professors "on the first Tuesday of May next." The Board met on that day and elected Colin Ferguson. It would be his misfortune to witness, less than a decade later, a precipitous decline in the College's fortunes.

1960

MAY 11 • U.S.

SENATOR JOHN F
KENNEDY, SEEKING THE
DEMOCRATIC
PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION, OPENS
HIS MARYLAND
CAMPAIGN WITH A
SPEECH IN RUSSELL
GYMNASIUM.



*Colin Ferguson, shorn in a period silhouette,
was president between 1793 and 1805.*

Ferguson was a respected scholar well-known to the Board, having been a member of the faculty as professor of languages, mathematics, and natural philosophy. In addition, he also served as vice principal and for a time performed the duties of treasurer. In 1783 he was the recipient of the honorary degree of Master of Arts, which was conferred upon him on the occasion of the College's first commencement. He was again honored in 1787 when the College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. He had completed his academic studies at the University of Edinburgh, under the patronage of his local school master, and had studied theology under College founder Dr. William Smith. When he was admitted to the priest's orders in the Protestant Episcopal Church on August 5, 1785, the Right Reverend Bishop Seabury conducted the ordination services.

As president, Ferguson faced a series of financial crises that threatened to close the College, the most serious coming in 1805. The withdrawal of the state's grant forced the Visitors and Governors to dismiss all but one professor.

1961

MARCH 25 • BOARD
APPROVES
EXPENDITURES FOR
LAYING SIDEWALK
FROM REAR OF SMITH
HALL TO NORTH DOOR
OF LIBRARY AND
ERECTING FIRE
ESCAPES ON SOMERSET
HOUSE AND HILL
DORMS.

JUNE 3 • COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLVE TO BOOST
STUDENT ENROLLMENT
TO 750.

Soon after that decision, Dr. Ferguson resigned, retiring to his farm in Kent County. Several months later he suffered a stroke and died on March 10, 1806, at age 55. He was interred on his Kent County farm near Galena.

Who succeeded the Reverend Ferguson as College principal? Rowland Watts, Class of 1886, wrote in a historical sketch of the school—based on word-of-mouth accounts, no doubt—that the man who shouldered the responsibility of keeping the school open was Reverend Ferguson's nephew, also named Colin Ferguson.

Gilbert W. Mead, president of the College from 1933 to 1949, concluded that Hugh McGuire held that position during the years 1813 to 1815. McGuire was a man of considerable teaching experience, having conducted several schools of his own as well as having taught at St. John's College for six years.

Francis Waters Pushes for Improvements

ONE INDIVIDUAL—the Reverend Francis Waters—holds the distinction of having been president of Washington College twice, from 1818 to 1823 and from 1854 to 1860.

Waters was principal of Washington Academy in Somerset County, where he had studied as a boy, when he accepted his first College appointment. He had earned a bachelor of arts degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1810. Upon completing his studies, he entered the law office of Judge Whittington, in Snow Hill, Maryland, where he proceeded to read law; however, he abandoned the law as a career to enter the Christian ministry. Waters was an active member of the Methodist Church. In 1814, he was prevailed upon to accept the appointment at Washington Academy.

Prior to his arrival in Chestertown, Waters, in a letter to the Board, suggested that a smokehouse be erected for the convenience of the stewardship that the Board planned to introduce at the opening of the next session in October. He also suggested that repairs be made to the building for the accommodation of students.

These repairs were made during the vacation period, but the Board did not consider a smokehouse to be a necessary addition. Accommodations for Thomas, the new steward, and his boarders were prepared. A committee of the Board was appointed to confer with the teachers and the steward to prepare rules for the governance of the steward's department. The committee reported that the steward and tutors believed that the interest of the College would be promoted if all

students, except those living at home, were required to board with the steward.

The Board renewed Waters's contract in October 1820, agreeing to pay him \$500 from the state donation and \$200 from any unappropriated funds, as well as funds realized from the mathematical and classical schools.

Despite efforts by Board members to change his mind, Waters resigned as principal in 1823. Thirty years later, he would return to serve for six more years.

In June 1860, Waters expressed his intention to resign as principal, pleading that his health was not equal to the "arduous and incessant labours" with which he was confronted. He expressed regret that more had not been accomplished during the final six years of his tenure, but admitted that, "We have some fruit to show for our joint efforts. Would it were much more abundant."

Richard Ringgold Leads Through Fire's Aftermath

IN 1832 THE VISITORS AND GOVERNORS invited a local man to become principal of the College. Richard Williamson Ringgold was no stranger to the Board—he was the group's president and remained so for years after his election as head of the College. He undertook these duties and responsibilities at a time when the College was in its most desperate straits. Five years had elapsed since fire had destroyed the College building, and the debris left by that conflagration had not yet been cleared away. Classes were conducted in rented quarters in Chestertown. The sites of these houses have been variously identified as the Hynson House, the Custom House, and a house situated at the corner of Mill and High Streets, where, in later years, an elementary school was erected.

Ringgold was a direct descendant of Thomas Ringgold, who had immigrated to the Eastern Shore in 1650, and the son of James Ringgold and Sarah Williamson, daughter of John Williamson, an early resident of Kent County. Born in 1803, he entered Princeton College as a freshman in 1817. In 1820 he was granted an honorable leave of absence, returning in November 1822 as a junior. He was graduated in 1824 with a bachelor of arts degree. Princeton conferred the master of arts degree upon him in 1833.

Following his graduation he returned to Kent County, where, in 1825, he announced to his friends and the public generally, "that having been admitted to the bar, he had opened an office in Princess Street, Chestertown, in the house formerly occupied by William H. Barroll. He trusts that by strict attention to his professional duties, he will give ample satisfaction to those who may employ him to transact their business."

1962

FEBRUARY 3 • A GROUP OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FOUR FACULTY MEMBERS JOIN 150 FREEDOM RIDERS IN CHESTERTOWN TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BY SOME LOCAL RESTAURANTS; POLICE SEPARATE PICKETERS AND ANGRY WHITES OUTSIDE BUD'S RESTAURANT.

FEBRUARY 10 • A SECOND CONTINGENCY OF FREEDOM RIDERS ARRIVES IN CHESTERTOWN TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SEGREGATION IN BUSINESSES.

FEBRUARY 20 • ABOUT 100 TOWNSPEOPLE AND STUDENTS ATTEND NAACP RALLY.

FEBRUARY 24 • THE COLLEGE LIBRARIAN IS ASSAULTED AND INJURED FOLLOWING AN ANTI-SEGREGATION DEMONSTRATION IN TOWN.

SPRING • THOMAS EDGAR MORRIS, FIRST BLACK TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE, IS AWARDED A B.A. IN MATHEMATICS.

Ringgold's contract was similar to that agreed to by Dr. Waters except for a provision enabling the Board to place as many as eight charity scholars under his care. These scholars were to be taught by him free of charge. For all other scholars in his department, Ringgold was to receive the tuition fee.

On July 20, 1853, after twenty-one years of service, Richard Williamson Ringgold informed the Board of Visitors and Governors: "I shall resign my office as Principal at the end of the present year."

Ringgold retired to his farm in Kent County, where he continued to be active in public life. He was elected to the Constitutional Convention of Maryland in 1867 and actively participated in the discussions of that body. Later he accepted the position as Examiner of Public Schools in Kent County, a position he held until he was compelled to resign because of poor health. He died August 23, 1873, at age seventy.

William Rivers Raises Standards, not Enrollment

THAT THE RAPID DECLINE of Washington College in the decade following the Civil War did not precipitate its closing can be attributed to William J. Rivers, a Southern gentleman, scholar, and educator whose efforts to modernize the institution laid the foundation for its survival into the twentieth century. He served between 1873 and 1887.

Upon completing his first year as principal at Washington College, Rivers wrote:

Washington College had fallen quite low in the favor of the people before Mr. Berkeley was elected Principal and Mr. Carlile, Vice-Principal. On account of the lack of interest on the part of the people and the Board of Visitors themselves, and the lack of discipline on the part of the Principal, the College numbered but nineteen students in July, 1873. It was, moreover, overwhelmed with disrepute on account of dissipated habits and continuous bad conduct of the students.

There were no graduates in the class of 1887; thus, the commencement exercises were limited to the program prepared by the Mount Vernon Literary Society, which was held in the new Stam Hall in downtown Chestertown.

That some members of the Board continued to be unhappy with the state of affairs at the College may be gathered from the principal's letter to Judge Wickes on June 20, 1887:

Prof. Zimmerman: Shaggy Sideburns and Outspoken Views

With the election of William J. Rivers as principal of Washington College in 1873, the Board appointed as vice principal and professor of natural philosophy a man who had spent the previous four years on the faculty at Western Maryland College in Westminster.

His name was William H. Zimmerman, a man fond of overgrown sideburns and cutting-edge gadgets, and he brought to Chestertown a reputation as a teacher who sparked the intellectual curiosities of students. Absorbed in the latest technological breakthroughs of his day, he purportedly had a telephone and a phonograph made, though not patented, by his own hand.

Zimmerman's first task was to return the College science lab to a practical condition, a chore Rivers described in his memoirs:

The Chemical & Philosophical Laboratory was in worse plight than the Library. The room had been used as a store room by Mr. Emory. What with garden produce, children's playthings & lumber, generally, it is astonishing that we found as many unbroken instruments as we did. But it occupied Prof. Zimmerman about six months to find and put in tolerable order the disjointed and scattered property of this room.

The doctrine of academic freedom was not yet part of the faculty license, and Zimmerman, who did not hesitate to tell his students of new scientific developments in geology, anthropology and evolution, eventually ran afoul of Rivers.

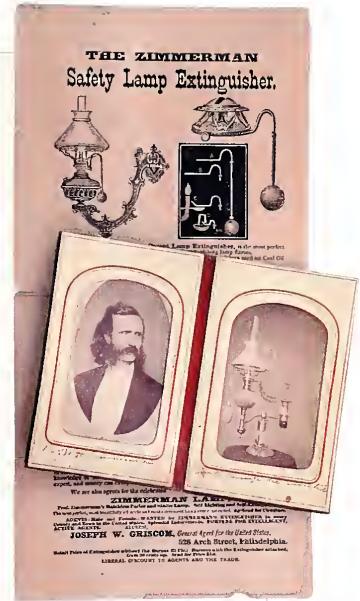
Concerned that the teaching of Darwinism and other beliefs which were, in his own words, "antagonistic to what are generally considered orthodox views of Christianity," Rivers brought

the matter before the Board. Although he did not mention Zimmerman by name, at least not in his memorandum book, the president nevertheless requested that the Board appoint a committee to investigate any faculty member whose outspoken views could lead students to skepticism.

Rivers' 1880 commencement address was published in a Chestertown paper. He warned the graduates to guard against "anti-religious" philosophies. "In the classroom I have endeavored to impress upon you what are the true objects for which you come to college, and I hope you now go home with minds improved and strengthened, and unaffected by any ideas that can make you undervalue the lessons of piety which you learned, when little children, at the knees of your loving mother."

Two years later the Board informed Zimmerman that they would accept his resignation. Zimmerman returned to Westminster, where he chaired Western Maryland's natural sciences department and, after two more years, he accepted a position in the physics department with the State Normal Agricultural College.

Among Zimmerman's patented inventions were a "self-lighting and self-extinguishing hydroelectric lamp" designed for students and a cooking device outfitted with a heat-deflecting hood. W



Professor William H. Zimmerman marketed his "Safety Lamp."

At the time of writing my report which I sent you on the 10th of May, I had written also my resignation. Learning that the discussion of the last summer was renewed at the late meeting of the Board, I send what I had then written.

The College is not succeeding in numbers any better than heretofore. If therefore there be any disposition on the part of the Visitors and Governors to try some other plan or another Principal please present them my resignation to take effect whenever it shall be their pleasure to accept it.

On June 25 Rivers' resignation was accepted, effective as of June 29, 1887. The Board permitted him the use of his residence until September 1.

In attempting to evaluate Rivers as principal of Washington College, one of the first things that comes to mind is the meticulousness with which he kept records of each student in the college course. He was a scholar of the first rank, dedicated to the liberal arts, and determined to see that Washington College continued in that tradition. He was recognized to be a fine gentleman by those who knew him. If he had one weakness, one would be tempted to say that he was somewhat aloof and did not encourage intimacy with any of his colleagues. He once wrote that a gentleman in town had remarked to him, in speaking of the Board, that "some don't know how to treat a gentleman, they want a man at the College who'll hob nob with them." He was perhaps more friendly with Judge Wickes and James A. Pearce than with any other members of the Board. His inability to establish closer ties with other Board members may have been a cause of his unhappiness.

However, it was with his failure to increase enrollment that was really the basis of the Board's discontent. Recognizing that the student body would not grow in the very near future, Rivers offered his resignation.

He remained in Chestertown for several years before moving to Baltimore, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1909 at the age of eighty-seven and was buried in the Elmwood Cemetery, Columbia, South Carolina.

One of your first duties is to uphold this institution whose benefits

you have enjoyed, and to promote its extended usefulness.

There is no reason why it should not become as a light upon a hill to diffuse

its rays of blessing over all this Eastern Shore.

From speech by President William J. Rivers to the graduating class, July 8, 1874.

Charles Reid Ushers in Coeducation

CHARLES WESLEY REID, the individual most responsible for bringing coeducation to Washington College, was president between 1889 and 1903. He believed that the value of the small college was found in the opportunity to develop close personal relations between the instructor and the student. He expressed the view that classes be limited to twenty-five students and thought that any class in excess of this number would place a burden on the teacher. He firmly believed in the value of the classics as an important part of the student's education, even though the student would not have much opportunity to use Greek and Latin in his chosen vocation. The value of these subjects, he felt, lay in developing and disciplining the mind of the student. The French and German languages, which in his opinion were easier to learn, did not provide the same degree of discipline.

Reid, an honors graduate of Dickinson College, had studied the ancient languages in Germany. He spent a year at the University of Göttingen, a year at the University of Berlin, and six months at the University of Bonn. During his stay abroad, Reid traveled extensively in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, and



Under the tenure of Charles W. Reid, the College's first yearbook was published. The Alpha appeared in 1895.

1963

FEBRUARY 14 •

DURING A TALK IN RUSSELL GYMNASIUM, AMERICAN SOCIALIST NORMAN THOMAS URGES THE WORLD POWERS TO DISARM THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

JULY 16 • DR. EDGAR P.

GWYNN, HEAD OF BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, PAYS 30 CENTS PER 100 FIREFLIES FOR USE IN SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS AT JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

1964

JANUARY 6 •

PRESIDENT AND MRS. DANIEL GIBSON BEGIN A TWO-WEEK TOUR OF THE SOUTH TO ACQUAINT ALUMNI WITH RECENT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS.

MARCH 5 • FORMER

MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR HENRY CABOT LODGE WINS THE STUDENT MOCK REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.

MARCH 13 • THE

ANCHORMEN, FOUR NAVAL ACADEMY SENIORS WHO HAVE PERFORMED THEIR MUSIC ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, ENTERTAIN STUDENTS IN RUSSELL GYMNASIUM.

Italy. Before returning to America he spent three months in Greece. He was forty-six when he became president of Washington College.

At the urging of Professor Proctor and on the recommendation of Reid, coeducation was adopted in 1891 on an experimental basis. Eleven coeds attended as day students during that first year. The next year the number was doubled. The catalog for 1893-94 reported twenty women in attendance. To encourage additional female applicants, the catalog announced that "a suitable house within eight minutes of the College has been procured for those coming from a distance, where board, including room and fuel, can be furnished from three to three and a half dollars per week. The building will afford comfortable accommodations for twelve to fifteen persons. They will be under the immediate supervision of a lady teacher who will Board with them."

The modest success of the program induced Dr. Reid to recommend that a female teacher be employed and that a boarding hall for coeds be provided. The Board hesitated to approve the appointment of a woman to the faculty but eventually gave its approval. The first female professor was Miss Bertha M. Stiles.

In 1900 the Board authorized the installation of two bath tubs and water closets in East Hall, provided the cost did not exceed \$250.

Reid was known familiarly as "Dutch." He was very bald, wore a spreading chin beard, and, according to a contemporary, "rode a bicycle despite a tendency to be corpulent and awkward." Cycling was the rage across the country in the last decade of the nineteenth century, and the fad did not escape attention in Kent County. A Chestertown Cycle Club was formed and members paraded through town, showing off their new pneumatic tires.

The arrival of women on campus brought attention to matters previously unattended, as reported in the local newspaper: "The college needs improvements in the way of pavements just now. The snow and rain of the last few days have made the grounds exceedingly muddy. This is very unpleasant, especially for the young ladies."

President Cain Puts Students First

By James M. Cain '10

JAMES W. CAIN, president of Washington College from 1903 to 1918, was not a great teacher, for in sober truth the routine of a classroom bored him more than it stimulated him, nor was he a great scholar, for most evenings found him with the *Saturday Evening Post* rather than the thick tomes on economics



James W. Cain, with wife Rose, raised five children at Washington College. James M. Cain graduated in 1910 and achieved literary fame as the author of The Postman Always Rings Twice.

which he imagined were his favorite reading. And yet many of his students thought him a great educator, for he was unquestionably a great humanist, and as such made an impression on them which was almost unique. For he knew very well that a college, whatever its educational, moral, and social functions, is in some degree an institution of sequestration. A boy's presence in it is not wholly voluntary. He may be sent there by parents who frankly want to get him out of the house; he may go there of his own free choice, and even work his way through. And yet he is the victim of a melancholy aspect of the civilization we live in: From the age of seventeen to the age of twenty-one he is good for nothing whatever. He can't sing, he can't vote, he can't support a wife; he belongs to a sort of "holluschickie" which has to be penned up for the good of all concerned, with education hoped for, but secondary.

But Dr. Cain remembered what many educators forget: that since he is there through no fault of his own, he has rights which even a college is bound to respect. Thus he constantly looked at things from the students' point of view, and his interest in their activities was of a different kind from that which college presidents commonly take. He made sport his personal concern, not for any selfish reason, but because it represented the students' desire to have an identity of their own, to create a world bigger than the academic world which had been created for them. He viewed with icy contempt all moves to commercialize sport, or to subvert it to the role of ballyhoo for the college. It was for this reason that a life dedicated in some degree to the more robust activities of students was never associated by those who knew him with the cheaper aspects of college athletics. He was not concerned with muscles, or gate receipts, or victories as such. He was the champion of what the student wanted as well as what the state thought he should have, and as a result had a following among students more fanatically devoted to him than anything in the record would serve to explain.

He was born at New Haven, Connecticut, September 1, 1860, of Irish parents. They were in comfortable circumstances, yet were dogged by illnesses that must have made his childhood somewhat unhappy. He was stricken with typhoid at sixteen, and on recovery found that his mother, who seems to have been a singularly lovely woman, had died during his delirium. From this tragedy, perhaps, emerged a sense of loneliness which seemed to find some assuagement in the companionship of students, for certainly he needed them as much as they needed him. He attended the public schools of New Haven, graduated from the Hillhouse High School, and entered Yale. There he was an average student, rowed bow oar on his class crew, studied economics under William Graham Sumner, played football under Walter Camp, and graduated in 1884. He spent two years as principal of the Lewistown, Pennsylvania, Academy, then in 1886 went to St. John's College at Annapolis, first as professor, then as vice president. He also served as college treasurer and as chairman of the Annapolis board of education.

In 1892 he organized and stroked the Severn Boat Club's first crew, which defeated the United States Naval Academy's first crew, which was stroked by Winston Churchill (the American novelist, not the English statesman). At St. John's he coached the football team, laying the foundation for that college's football reputation which lasted from the early 1900s to the time of the First World War.

In 1903 he accepted the presidency of Washington College, and transformed it from a small institution which was hardly more than a rural academy into the beginnings of the modern college it is at present. When he arrived the College consisted of 121 students, six professors, West Hall, Middle Hall, East Hall, and Reid Hall (then known as Normal Hall), a small frame gymnasium, three professors' houses, and a windmill. But of the 121 students a number were enrolled in a normal department, others in a preparatory department, which Maryland colleges at that time had to maintain on account of the state's execrable high school system, and still others in a classification known as "special," which meant that Willie wasn't very bright, but nobody had the heart to fire him. In the College proper there were fewer than forty students, but it was this College which Dr. Cain set himself to build up, so that in a few years both normal and preparatory departments were gone, and the rapidly growing enrollment represented a student body which was seeking academic degrees that met the average standard. At that time the only source of funds was the state itself, and he got the legislature to appropriate sums which made possible William Smith Hall, the gymnasium, and various heating plants, water systems, athletic fields, etc., which greatly improved conditions on the campus.

In 1910 occurred an event which seemed no more than a personal sorrow to Dr. Cain at the time, but was to have grievous consequences, not only to him, but to the College. This was the death of Marion Dekalb Smith, guiding spirit of the Board. He had sponsored Dr. Cain, and as one of the leading politicians of the state, was able to give his new protege a free hand, for none on the Board could challenge his authority, or would even have tried to. After his death things went on as usual, with the exception that the curse of Washington College began to make its appearance again: peanut politics, attempting to put the College on its job list so that in a year or two almost every place at the College, from janitorships to professorships, was claimed by some county boss on the Board who thought that his man could shake the fires as well as the nominee of Dr. Cain's. The burning of Smith Hall in 1916 made this a bit doubtful, but the affairs of the College were by now in a spiral from which they did not emerge before this country entered the war then threatening. Local Board members, under the guise of "interest" in the College, transformed it into a private plaything of their own: its athletic games were for the entertainment of their friends, its dances for the diversion of their wives, and its positions for the support of their political adherents. The issue was presently joined on the question of an

1964

OCTOBER 9 • BY A VOTE OF 367 TO 84, STUDENTS OVERWHELMINGLY ENDORSE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT ELECTS SENATORS FROM DORMITORIES INSTEAD OF CLASSES.

OCTOBER 23 • CONCERT BY FOLK SINGER JUDY COLLINS IN HODSON HALL IS MOVED BACK AN HOUR SO STUDENTS CAN ATTEND TALK BY ILLINOIS SENATOR EVERETT DIRKSEN AT REPUBLICAN RALLY IN RUSSELL GYM.

OCTOBER 24 • HOMECOMING THEME "BOURBON STREET" FEATURES THE BAND LITTLE ANTHONY AND THE IMPERIALS IN RUSSELL GYM.

1965

FEBRUARY 2 • PRESIDENT GIBSON INFORMS STUDENT ASSEMBLY THAT COLLEGE RULES PROHIBITING ALCOHOL AT STUDENT SOCIAL EVENTS WILL BE ENFORCED; KENT HOUSE STUDENTS IMMEDIATELY CANCEL THEIR UPCOMING DANCE.

athletic director. For a time, T. Alan Goldsborough was able to rally support for the President, but in 1918 came the showdown, with Dr. Cain out, and the College destined to continue its nose dive for several more years until politics was eliminated under the reorganization plan which now operates.

Then ensued a struggle in which Dr. Cain's students might take pride if they knew its details. At 58, men do not commonly find the heart to begin life over as he now had to. Yet by the summer of 1918 he was in the harness again, as statistician for the United States Fidelity and Guarantee Company of Baltimore, and rose steadily at this work, the company making him vice president in 1919 and increasing his responsibilities until it retired him in 1933. During this time he served as member of the Board for St. John's College and Washington College, and was active in civic enterprises. His last years were enfeebled by ill health, and he scarcely saw a dozen visitors a year. Yet when he died in 1938, hundreds of his former students attended his funeral, and seemed to feel his passing as a profound personal loss.

President Gould is Embattled

WITH THE END OF THE WAR in Europe, Washington College closed its training school for soldiers, which had operated under the direction of the War Department, and turned its attention back to academics. One of Clarence Gould's first acts as president (he served from 1919 to 1923) was to address a letter to the alumni, pledging to uphold the scholarship of the institution and to exert every effort to make it a progressive college worthy of their confidence and support.

He called attention to the needs confronting the College, in particular to increased enrollment and an adequate endowment for the library. The satisfaction of these needs, he stated, must be met if the College were to prosper. He reminded his readers that the fire of 1916 had completely destroyed the College library and that, while insurance money made possible the recovery of a working collection, additional acquisitions were necessary for the library to become an effective tool in aiding the growth of the College. He proposed that an endowment fund of \$100,000 be established as a source of future acquisitions. Such a goal, he knew, could not be realized at once, but he advised that it was not too early to think about it as a future goal. Gould's most immediate appeal to the alumni and their friends was to make every effort to encourage students to attend the College.



Dr. Clarence Pembroke Gould was at odds with the Board over the direction Washington College would take after World War I. He was ousted because he considered making it a junior college.

1965

MARCH 3 • TWO UNIFORMED OFFICERS FROM THE BURNS DETECTIVE AGENCY ARE HIRED TO PROVIDE WEEKEND SECURITY FOR THE CAMPUS AND STUDENTS.

MAY 15 • THREE BANDS—SMOKEY ROBINSON AND THE MIRACLES, TOMMY VANN AND THE ECHOES, AND THE ADMIRALS—PLAY NON-STOP MUSIC DURING SPRING WEEKEND'S SATURDAY DANCE.

SEPTEMBER 24 • TOWN POLICE RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS THAT 40 COLLEGE STUDENTS ATTENDING AN OFF-CAMPUS PARTY ON QUEEN STREET ARE LOUD AND BOISTEROUS.

SEPTEMBER 27 • THE DEAN OF MEN ORDERS FIVE STUDENTS WHO HELD FRIDAY'S PARTY TO MOVE BACK ON CAMPUS; THE DECISION BEGINS A DEBATE OVER STUDENT RIGHTS THAT LASTS FOR WEEKS.

Gould's first recorded meeting with the Board was on April 9, 1919. His report included a recommendation for the reinstatement of coeducation. The Board responded favorably by agreeing to provide education to men and women equally. To emphasize the seriousness of its intent, the Board created free tuition scholarships for female residents of Maryland who had completed the course of study in the public schools of the districts in which they lived. Gould also recommended that only those students who had completed a minimum of two years of high school should be permitted to enter the Preparatory Department. He also proposed that candidates for the freshman class be required to present fifteen units of work rather than the fourteen previously required.

Normal Hall was refurbished in 1921 to receive female residents for the first time since the Normal Department had been discontinued in 1910. In announcing the reopening of Normal Hall, College officials stated that they were not expecting many occupants that year. Only five or six women were in residence while a total of twenty attended the College.

Early in January 1923, Gould reminded the Board that he had for some time been recommending the abandonment of the Preparatory Department. The faculty, after deliberating this question, proposed that the College drop the first preparatory class and that the second preparatory class thereafter be designated a subfreshman class. Gould acknowledged that while this action would not qualify the College for accreditation under general college standards, it would place the College in a position to drop the subfreshman class the next year. Thereafter, the terms "subfreshman" and "special student" were applied to those entering the College with insufficient entrance units.

His report also indicated that three additional improvements would be necessary before the College could be accredited. These included the improvement of the library and laboratory facilities and a strengthened faculty. Gould thought the faculty was weak in graduate work and recommended that faculty members be given the opportunity to attend summer school at the expense of the College. He suggested that longer leaves of absence, with pay, might be desirable, in order to encourage younger instructors to complete their work for the doctorate.

As all of these needs required additional funds, Gould suggested that the Board consider conducting an endowment campaign. He was one among many small college administrators who recognized the potential opportunities facing American colleges. His desire for an improved faculty and additional library and laboratory facilities grew out of this vision. Gould predicted that within the near future the College would enjoy an enrollment of 250, and he thought that at the end of ten years it was possible that enrollment would reach 500.

The destruction of William Smith Hall in 1916 had placed an unexpected burden on the Board. In addition, with the entrance of the United States into the war in 1917, young men were inducted into the armed services, thus affecting

college enrollments. Scarcity of materials, accompanied by rising prices, resulted in higher operating costs. The results of this succession of events caused the Board, in April of 1919, to become concerned with its growing fiscal problems. The following January a committee was appointed to call upon the governor of Maryland to inform him of the nature of the situation and to request that the annual state appropriation of \$30,000 to the College be increased. When the General Assembly met in 1920, the appropriation was increased by \$5,000 for each of the years 1921 and 1922.

Early in the spring of 1923, Board Chairman Hiram S. Brown and Gould exchanged letters, the substance of which related to a statement the president had prepared for the Maryland College Commission. Apparently the chairman read a newspaper account of the president's contribution and came to the conclusion that Gould was sympathetic to the program for the establishment of junior colleges in Maryland. Gould responded, giving a full report of his participation in the College Commission. He protested that the substance of his statement expressed his personal views and was not intended as an expression of the views of the College trustees. The chairman replied:

My fear, however, is that the Commission may not differentiate in the matter, and, by reason of your position as President of the Faculty, may assume that your memorandum expressed the views of the college management.

If I understand your letter correctly you are in sympathy with the suggested plan for Junior Colleges feeding up into a centralized graduate school in Maryland and that you feel such a policy might result to the ultimate good of the smaller colleges.

You will note from my other letter to you of today's date that I am complying with the suggestion of the Curriculum Committee regarding the calling of a special meeting of the Board, and I think we can consider the Maryland College Commission situation at the same time.

The special meeting of the Board was held on March 10. The first order of business the minutes record was a discussion of Gould's correspondence with the Maryland College Commission. This discussion was followed by the adoption of a resolution that declared the Board to be "unalterably opposed to the reduction of the College to an Educational Institution of Junior Grade."

Having disposed of that question, the Curriculum Committee recommended that the courses in domestic science, which had been introduced the past September, be discontinued at the close of the academic year. Gould vigorously opposed this recommendation, contending that the department had not received a fair trial and that it had not been given sufficient time to demonstrate its value to the total

1965

NOVEMBER 4 • THE WOMEN'S RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION IS CONDUCTING A "CHEER JOHN" CAMPAIGN TO SEND CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO U.S. SERVICEMEN IN VIETNAM.

NOVEMBER 4 • THE COLLEGE TUITION FEE IS TO BE RAISED TO \$1,450 NEXT FALL; IT COSTS THE COLLEGE ABOUT \$1,800 A YEAR TO EDUCATE EACH STUDENT.

NOVEMBER 8 • THE STUDENT SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION SUPPORTING U.S. ROLE IN VIETNAM.

1966

JANUARY 23 • BY A 16-TO-15 VOTE, COLLEGE TRUSTEES PERMIT FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES TO RETAIN THEIR NATIONAL STATUS AND REMAIN AS SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS.

FEBRUARY 13 • STUDENTS NAME THEIR NEW LITERARY MAGAZINE *MISCELLANY 184* (THE SCHOOL IS 184 YEARS OLD).

curriculum. He implied that the committee had been influenced by several members of the faculty who were opposed to the introduction of the experiment.

Notwithstanding his vigorous opposition, the Board approved the committee's recommendation. Gould, feeling that he had no other alternative, submitted his resignation immediately. The Board refused to act on the resignation, preferring to defer further action until the regular Board meeting in April.

In his written resignation, Gould reviewed the activities that had transpired during the four years of his incumbency. He stated that when he accepted the presidency of the College, he promised himself to devote five years to its cause. At the expiration of that time, he would return to teaching and research, his first loves. Since sufficient progress had been made over the last four years, he felt it was time for the College to appoint a new president.

The Board acknowledged the valuable services rendered by Gould by adopting a rather lengthy resolution of commendation.

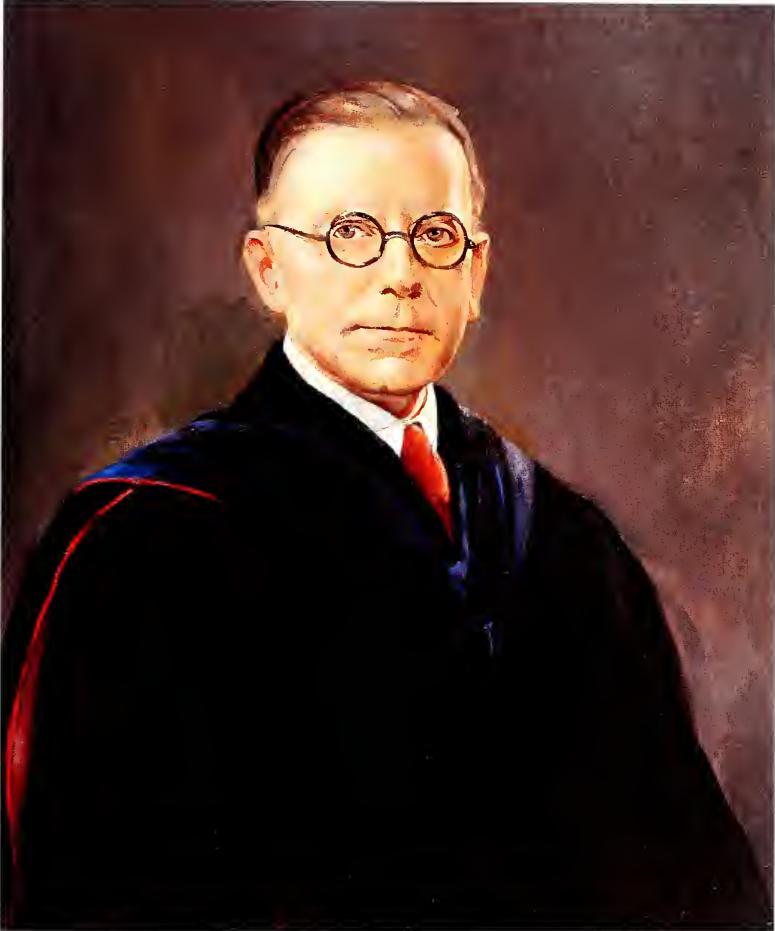
Following his resignation, Gould accepted an appointment as professor of history at Western Reserve University, where he remained until 1933. In that year he was appointed professor of history and dean at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. His last academic position was as chairman of the history department at Youngstown University, also in Ohio. Dr. Gould married the former Gertrude Ruth Still, a native of Denver. He died on December 16, 1971, and was buried in the family plot in Church Hill.

President Titsworth Oversees Moderate Growth

DR. PAUL EMERSON TITSWORTH, a professor of modern languages and dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Alfred University, served as president of Washington College between 1923 and 1933.

Inaugural ceremonies were held on April 11, 1924. Representatives from many colleges and universities were present on that occasion, believed to have been the first of its kind on campus. Special greetings were delivered by Dr. A. Norman Ward, president of Western Maryland College; Dr. Walter Hulihan, president of the University of Delaware; Dr. James W. Chapman, representing the Alumni Association; and Dr. William R. Howell, representing the faculty. There is no evidence to indicate that any of his predecessors were formally inducted into office.

Dr. Titsworth's administration addressed the lack of adequate housing as a major issue. The student body, which numbered 161 in 1923-24, reached 298 by 1933-34. Lacking the funds necessary to provide modern housing accommoda-

A portrait painting of Paul E. Titsworth, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a dark suit and red tie.

1966

MARCH 10 • CO-
FOUNDERS STEVE
AMICK AND LARRY
SWANSTROM
ANNOUNCE
FORMATION OF YOUNG
REPUBLICAN CLUB ON
CAMPUS.

APRIL 12 • STUDENTS
GIVE PRESIDENT
GIBSON COPY OF
"WHITE PAPER," A
DOCUMENT CALLING
FOR MORE SELF-
REGULATION BY
STUDENTS.

APRIL 14 • STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
ENDORSES "WHITE
PAPER"; *THE KENT*
COUNTY NEH'S
DERIDES THE
DOCUMENT AS
"DRIVEL."

APRIL 25 • DR. FRED
G. LIVINGOOD,
WHO CAME TO THE
COLLEGE IN 1925 AND
WAS ACTING PRESIDENT
FROM 1949 TO 1950,
DIES.

APRIL 29 • STATE
GOVERNOR
J. MILLARD TAWES
SIGNS INTO LAW A BILL
GRANTING COLLEGE
\$545,000 IN MATCHING
STATE FUNDS FOR THE
SCHOOL'S HERITAGE
PROGRAM.

Paul E. Titsworth was one of the few early presidents who won the Board's favor.

tions for a growing resident student body, the College was compelled to resort to temporary facilities. By 1926, in response to the increased enrollment of women, the Board authorized the president to remove the dining hall from Reid Hall and to replace it with a cafeteria in the basement of Cain Gymnasium. This move provided space to accommodate ten additional women. The relocation of the dining hall to the gymnasium also provided additional space for that service. Later in 1926, Colonel Clarence Hodson—a Board member who became inter-

ested in the College during the Gould administration—purchased the Schauber House for the College. The house was completely remodeled during the summer of 1927 to provide accommodations for ten more women. It was named Hodson House.

On June 19, 1922, the Board resolved to launch an endowment campaign to raise \$250,000, but it was not until Titsworth assumed the duties of his office that definitive action was taken. On the president's recommendation, the National Service Associates, an organization specializing in fund-raising, was employed to direct the campaign. Some of the valuable by-products anticipated from this campaign were extensive publicity for the school, a heightening of interest in the College by the people of Maryland, and an inducement to increase enrollment, particularly from the Eastern Shore. Two representatives of the National Service Associates were assigned to conduct the campaign, which was a dismal failure. Their efforts netted \$24,745, of which the consultants collected slightly more than \$8,000 in fees.

In 1924, the General Assembly enacted a bill creating a state debt in the amount of \$100,000, the proceeds of which were to be donated to the College, provided the College succeeded in raising \$200,000 by July 1, 1927. This action was taken to stimulate public interest in the endowment campaign. When the College failed to raise the requisite funds and to meet the deadline, the State removed the matching condition and appropriated \$100,000 to the College.

In his first report to the trustees, Titsworth repeated a warning made earlier by his predecessor Clarence P. Gould that the College must make every effort to meet the requirements of the Regional Association of Colleges for accreditation. Titsworth warned that before such accreditation would be possible, the Preparatory Department would have to be discontinued, the number and training of the faculty increased, and the library and laboratory facilities enlarged. The Prepara-

*I should like to add that I believe we here in this College
should strive to inspire the larger part of our boys and girls
with the wish to invest their transforming, creative,
college-trained energies in the life, not of the big city,
but of the small town and of the country.
Maryland, like other states largely rural, finds too much of its energy
and potential leadership drained off into the large centers.*

From 1924 inaugural address by College President Paul E. Titsworth.

1966

MAY 14 • HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING WEEKEND INCLUDE SHOREMEN LACROSSE VICTORY OVER UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, 12-2, AND ARMORY DANCE TO MUSIC OF THE SHIRELLES AND A SECOND GROUP, THE HOT NUTS.

OCTOBER 8 • STUDENTS BOARD THE *PORT WELCOME* AT THE FOOT OF HIGH ST. FOR A FIVE-HOUR CRUISE ALONG THE CHESTER RIVER; MUSIC IS PROVIDED BY THE EXOTICS AND THE VAN DYKES.

OCTOBER 13 • THE STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE MOVES FROM THE KENT COUNTY HOSPITAL TO THE FIRST FLOOR OF RICHMOND HOUSE.

OCTOBER 24 • "ESPRESSO PRIEST" MALCOLM BOYD, WHO WRITES PLAYS FILLED WITH EXPLETIVES, ATTACKS ORGANIZED RELIGION FROM THE STAGE IN WILLIAM SMITH HALL.

OCTOBER 31 • ZETA TAU ALPHA SORORITY SPONSORS DEBATE IN HODSON STUDENT CENTER ON WHERE SECOND SPAN OF THE BAY BRIDGE SHOULD BE BUILT.

tory Department was discontinued in 1924. Additions were made to the faculty and badly needed improvements were effected. By October 25, 1925, the president was able to report that "one final requirement for entrance into the blissful state, we are told, is the employment of a trained librarian. It is largely for this reason, therefore, that I have at this time recommended the speedy employment of this requisite addition to the staff of Washington College."

The Board approved Titsworth's recommendation for the appointment of Miss Bahnie C. Wedekind as librarian; she began her duties November 1, 1925. On November 26, 1925, when the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Middle States and Maryland met, the commission's recommendation to place Washington College on the accredited list was adopted.

During the summer months of 1926, the library, which had previously occupied two rooms on the second floor of William Smith Hall, was moved to the basement of the building. The reading room was placed in the area directly beneath the entrance to the building, and the stacks occupied the space below the auditorium. The move provided additional space for the library, while at the same time making the two vacated rooms available for classroom use.

The decade 1923-33 saw a moderate increase in student enrollment and in extracurricular activities. The Student Council was responsible for the proper conduct of the students and the administration of the honor code. It served as the students' voice in all matters pertaining to their interests. Only male students were eligible for election to the Student Council. In 1924, the Girls' Council was formed to promote the interests of the residents of Reid Hall.

The Mount Vernon Literary Society and the Adelphia Literary Society provided opportunities for training in oratory, public speaking, impromptu speaking, debating, and parliamentary law. By the end of the 1930s, the literary societies found they were competing with such organizations as the Debating Society, the Oratorical Association, and the Dramatic Club. The Dramatic Club usually presented three or four plays each year, and their productions attracted many townspeople as well as students.

The *Washington Collegian*, the student publication, gave students interested in journalism an opportunity to gain experience in that field. For many years it appeared monthly as a magazine, but in the 1930s the publication was converted into a bi-weekly newspaper called the *Washington Elm*. The Washington College yearbook was revived in 1927 largely through the efforts of John Calvin Copper, a member of the senior class. The yearbook was called *Pegasus*, recalling the title given to the yearbooks published in 1909 and 1910.

For some time Titsworth had observed that young people were leaving their homes in rural areas to find employment in the cities. While he recognized that this trend could not be halted completely, he was convinced that greater efforts should be directed to developing programs that would encourage young people

to consider the opportunities available in rural areas. With this in mind, the baccalaureate address in 1926 was given the title "Joys and Responsibilities of Country Living." During the course of his remarks, Titsworth suggested to those graduates who were not as yet under contract to seriously consider employment in a rural setting. He reminded them that many of the conveniences of city life were becoming commonplace in the more progressive rural communities.

This address marked the opening of a campaign to establish a chair in country living. In discussing this proposal with the Board, he reminded them that the College, situated in a rural area and drawing approximately 90 percent of its students from the open country, was an appropriate place to establish a chair in country life. He proposed that the new course be presented both as a science and as an art—something to know and something to do. Rural sociology, rural economics, standards of living, work, and play would constitute a portion of the curriculum. The program was intended to show how country life was the foundation upon which the national life rests. The same knowledge that makes city life and effort attractive and successful, if applied to the small town and open country, would be equally attractive and successful. Titsworth was careful to emphasize that his proposal was not intended to supplant or duplicate the work of an agricultural college.

Realizing that the College could not fund a chair from its operating budget, he recommended that a campaign be launched to raise \$60,000. He felt that a fund of that amount earning five percent interest annually would be sufficient to meet the needs of the program. Although his proposal was favorably received in many quarters, he was unable to raise the needed funds. *The Kent News* made the following comment on the proposed program:

Washington College is receiving more publicity today than ever before in its history. The News referred to Dr. Titsworth's idea of educating the boy and girl back to the farm instead of the city. Metropolitan newspapers, magazines and feature syndicates have heralded the idea far and wide as a most excellent solution to one of the biggest and most vital problems confronting agricultural communities.

In December 1932 Titsworth notified the Board that he had accepted the presidency of Alfred University, his alma mater, effective June 30, and requested the Board to accept his resignation. In his notification he wrote:

It was only after much deliberation and with the greatest regret that he thus severs his relationship with Washington College. He feels deeply obliged to this institution for the opportunity given him to serve as its president. He feels a personal obligation to every member of the Board

and to all the friends and students of Washington College who have cooperated splendidly with him in this joint effort of putting Washington College over.

The Board accepted the resignation reluctantly and appointed a committee to draft "such a resolution of regrets as were expressed at this meeting."

Shortly following his inauguration as the sixth president of Alfred University, Titsworth suffered a fatal heart attack. On that day, being scheduled to deliver a sermon at Christ's Church in Hornell, New York, he went to his garage to get his car. His wife, noting the unusual amount of time he was taking to get it started, went out to learn the reason for the delay and discovered his body.

Mead Guides College Through Tough Years

IN SUBMITTING HIS RESIGNATION as president of Washington College in 1932, Dr. Paul E. Titsworth advised the Board to "attract an outstanding man" to head the College. He stated that "while undue haste in the matter was unwise, the morale of Washington College requires prompt action and public announcement thereof." The Board appointed a committee of five to proceed with the task of finding a suitable candidate. On April 8, 1933, the chairman of the Selection Committee presented the name of Gilbert Wilcox Mead, a former professor of English and comparative literature, dean at Birmingham-Southern College. As College president between 1933 and 1949, Mead directed unprecedented institutional growth.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt accepted an invitation from the Board of Visitors and Governors to be present at Mead's inauguration on October 2, 1933, and to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Upon public announcement of the intended visit of FDR, the residents of Chestertown began feverish preparations to properly welcome him. As *The Kent News* wrote in its editorial on October 21:

There is no precedent to be found in the files of the newspapers of Kent County as to the procedure to be followed in welcoming a President in our province. There hasn't been a President near us since the first *Kent News* came on the streets back in 1823. George Washington's visit here in 1789 was the first, and the last, up until today when Franklin Delano Roosevelt has honored Chestertown and Washington College by coming to spend the day with us.

1967

JANUARY 3 •
ALTHOUGH A FEW
FINISHING TOUCHES
ARE DUE, THE NEW
CAROLINE HOUSE IS
OPEN TO RECEIVE ITS
FIRST FEMALE
RESIDENTS.

JANUARY 8 •
PRESIDENT GIBSON
ANNOUNCES AN
EXPERIMENTAL OPEN
HOUSE POLICY; DORM
ROOMS WILL BE OPEN
TO ALL VISITORS FOR
THREE HOURS ON
SUNDAYS; DOORS MUST
REMAIN OPEN DURING
THIS PERIOD.

FEBRUARY 14 •
FORMER CONGRESS
OF RACIAL EQUALITY
DIRECTOR JAMES
FARMER ESPouses
BLACK POWER DURING
SPEECH IN WILLIAM
SMITH AUDITORIUM.

MAY 4 • THE
COLLEGE'S
PRODUCTION OF THE
CONTROVERSIAL
MACBIRD IS THE PLAY'S
FIRST SINCE IT
ATTRACTED PRAISE
AND CENSURE DURING
ITS OFF-BROADWAY
STINT.

MAY 13 • MOTOWN'S
SMOKEY ROBINSON
AND THE MIRACLES
ENTERTAIN THE
CROWD AT THE
SPRING DANCE IN THE
LOCAL ARMORY.

Weeks of preparation were rewarded shortly after 11 a.m. on the appointed day, when the president's party was whisked through the gaily bedecked streets of Chestertown to the College. As the party approached the campus, the presidential salute of twenty-one guns was fired by a detachment of artillery from Fort Hoyle.

The large crowd gathered to witness the events of the day included many representatives of the leading colleges and universities in the nation. As FDR stepped forward to receive his honorary degree, the entire assembly applauded vigorously. Having received his hood, the president responded with a few remarks.

The *Chestertown Transcript*, in its issue of October 28, 1933, wrote in bold type: "Fifteen Thousand Attend Inaugural Ceremony at Washington College," adding that this was the largest aggregation of people ever to assemble in Chestertown.

Mead assumed his duties as president of the College at a time when the nation was in the midst of a severe economic depression. Hundreds of factories were closed, unemployment had reached staggering proportions, many of the unemployed were roaming the streets, and people were losing confidence in the nation's economy. Several months before Mead's arrival in Chestertown, Roosevelt had ordered all banks in the nation to close their doors. He then instructed Congress to enact emergency legislation designed to alleviate the situation. Under a measure creating the Federal Relief Administration, that agency was authorized to provide funds for the payment of wages to students for performing part-time work in their respective colleges. The purpose of this program was to keep the young men in the colleges and off the streets as unemployed workers.

*The recurrent shocks of daily adventure warn us to dwell not too long
in the aura of history-haunted reminiscence. Were General Washington
sitting today with his successors at the council table of our
Board of Visitors and Governors, it is certain that his eyes would be turned
to the future—as ours must be. The victories of one campaign
are strengthened by the planning of another.
That was his way. It must be ours.*

Excerpts from Gilbert W. Mead's 1933 inaugural address as nineteenth president of Washington College.



At the urging of Gilbert W. Mead and his circle of friends, two sitting United States presidents visited Washington College.

1968

JANUARY 12 •
PRESIDENT DANIEL Z.
GIBSON ANNOUNCES
THAT SENIOR WOMEN
AND THOSE COEDS
OVER 21 WILL NO
LONGER BE REQUIRED
TO BE INSIDE THEIR
DORMITORIES BY
MIDNIGHT.

APRIL 23 • ORGANIZED
A YEAR AGO, THE
COLLEGE CREW CLUB
WINS ITS FIRST MEET
RACES BY DEFEATING
VARSITY AND JUNIOR
VARSITY CREWS FROM
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF
NEW YORK.

APRIL 30 • NINETY
PERCENT OF THE 150
MALE STUDENTS
POLLED BY *THE ELM*
OPPOSE THE WAR IN
VIETNAM; NEARLY 75
PERCENT SAY THEY
WILL SERVE IN THE
MILITARY IF DRAFTED.

MAY • A POLL SHOWS
THAT COLLEGE
STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO
VOTE IN THE
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
PREFER SENATOR
EUGENE McCARTHY
OVER SENATOR
ROBERT KENNEDY,
170 TO 64.

Mead Survives a Close Call

Because they are by necessity communities of keen intellect and strong will, places of higher education often are charged with internecine drama. Washington College is no exception and has experienced its share of political warring, usually behind closed doors. Sometimes, as in the case of Pres. Gilbert W. Mead, the squabble spills into the public arena.

In 1937, nearly five years after he shared the spotlight of his inauguration with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Mead came under attack from segments of three powerful fronts—alumni, the Board, and the administration.

Spurred on by criticism of Mead by some in the faculty and administration—notably by Dean J. S. William Jones—and aided by alumni in the Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia chapters, one College trustee drew up a laundry list of charges against the president and presented them to Hiram S. Brown, chairman of the trustees.

The allegations were numerous and serious. Mead, his adversaries insisted, was unfit to keep his job because he was routinely rude to students, discourteous to faculty, ignored the advice of his administration colleagues, favored his own sons—who were students at the College—over others for academic honors, tolerated drinking on campus, and even once showed up at an alumni affair intoxicated.

Baltimore alumni were so concerned about Mead's alleged character faults that during a fall meeting in the Munsey Building they formally called upon the College Board to investigate the president. Similar requests were forwarded from alumni officials in Washington and Philadelphia.

Word of the discord reached Baltimore *News-Post* writer Louis Azrael, who on December 2 mentioned the development in his popular column: "In this ancient and honorable school, and even more vigorously among some of the graduates, there is discontent and commotion."

The next day Mead dashed off letters to key trustees, pledging to run the school properly and expressing surprise with the movement against him. "...I can honestly say that the matter of this discussion among the alumni has not been mentioned to me and I, naturally, am anxious to know what the criticism is," he wrote.

Within weeks, Hiram Brown's office was flooded with Western Union telegrams calling for Mead's resignation. Meanwhile, Brown pored over Mead's eight-page rebuttal of the allegations against him. One by one, Mead denied all the charges.

In handwritten notes, the Board chairman kept score of the contest between Mead and those who would depose him. Brown, whose tight control of the trustees was rarely questioned, was eager to resolve the embarrassing crisis firmly and fairly. He concluded that much of what was behind the contretemps was a clash of styles and egos between the president and "Spriggy" Jones, an 1889 graduate of the College who had been working for his *alma mater* since 1892.

"To avoid undue publicity and harm I have made no statements and have consulted only those whose statements have been quoted to me," Brown wrote. "Many, however, have volunteered comments and I find there is not unanimous desire for Mead's retirement."

Brown assured others on the Board that, short of firing Mead, "every effort will be made to straighten this situation out as promptly as possible." And, in an undisguised slap at the faction he blamed most for causing the trouble, Brown wrote in a letter to trustees the day before Christmas: "May I suggest ... that Washington College can in the future be better served by Dr. Jones and other members of the faculty if they will attend to their own jobs and leave the running of Washington College, through the President, to the Board of Visitors and Governors." **W**

Washington College students participated in this program. Between February and June of 1934, students earned \$1,322.50. The following year the program was transferred to the National Youth Administration, which continued to administer its affairs until the United States entered World War II. During those years, the National Youth Administration assisted approximately fifty students at the college each year. This assistance enabled the College to maintain its enrollment during the trying years of the Depression. Beginning with 1935-36, enrollment was consistently above 300, until the United States finally entered the war.

During the commencement exercises of June 1937, Mead aroused enthusiasm with an announcement that Dr. George Avery Bunting, Class of 1891, had planned to give the College a new library. Ground for the facility was broken in the spring of 1939 and dedication of the new building was on February 24, 1940, the Saturday nearest George Washington's birthday. Bunting Library served the campus community until the opening of the Clifton Miller Library in 1971. Since that time, Bunting Hall has housed offices of the College administration.

Early in the fall of 1945, Mead wrote to President Harry S Truman inviting him to the College commencement in 1946. The response to this invitation was cordial, indicating possible acceptance, contingent upon prevailing circumstances. Mead informed the Board of Truman's favorable response; he was authorized to confer upon Truman the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws if and when he should come to the College. Several days later, the faculty concurred in this action of the Board.

The commencement exercises in 1946 were held on Saturday, June 1. President Truman was present, having traveled by car to Chestertown. As the motorcade passed through Centreville, Church Hill, and Chestertown, it received greetings from the people in each town. Arriving at the College, Truman was met by U.S. Senator George Radcliffe and Governor Herbert R. O'Conor.

Mead had been president of Washington College for sixteen years, less three months, when he died. During those years enrollment had doubled, important additions were made to the physical plant, and the reputation of the College in academic circles had been greatly enhanced. Mead successfully guided the institution through the Depression years and World War II. His achievements during his latter years were particularly notable in light of his poor health. He exerted maximum effort to secure the facilities needed to accommodate the growing student body following the war. At the time of his death, there was every indication that the future of the College would be even brighter than its past. Circumstances, however, prevented Mead from realizing that future, for while planning the construction of Somerset House, his illness became more serious. He died March 25, 1949, and his body was interred in St. Paul's cemetery, Kent County. **W**

1968

JUNE 2 • COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES INCLUDE AWARDING OF FIRST SOPHIE KERR PRIZE (\$9,000) TO GRADUATING SENIOR CHRISTINA CLARK HODUM.

SEPTEMBER 1 • IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO EXPLORE SUBJECTS OUTSIDE THEIR MAJORS, THE COLLEGE IMPLEMENTS A PASS-FAIL PLAN FOR SPECIFIC COURSES.

1969

MARCH 14 • STUDENTS GATHER PEACEFULLY AT STEPS OF WILLIAM SMITH HALL TO PROTEST U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM.

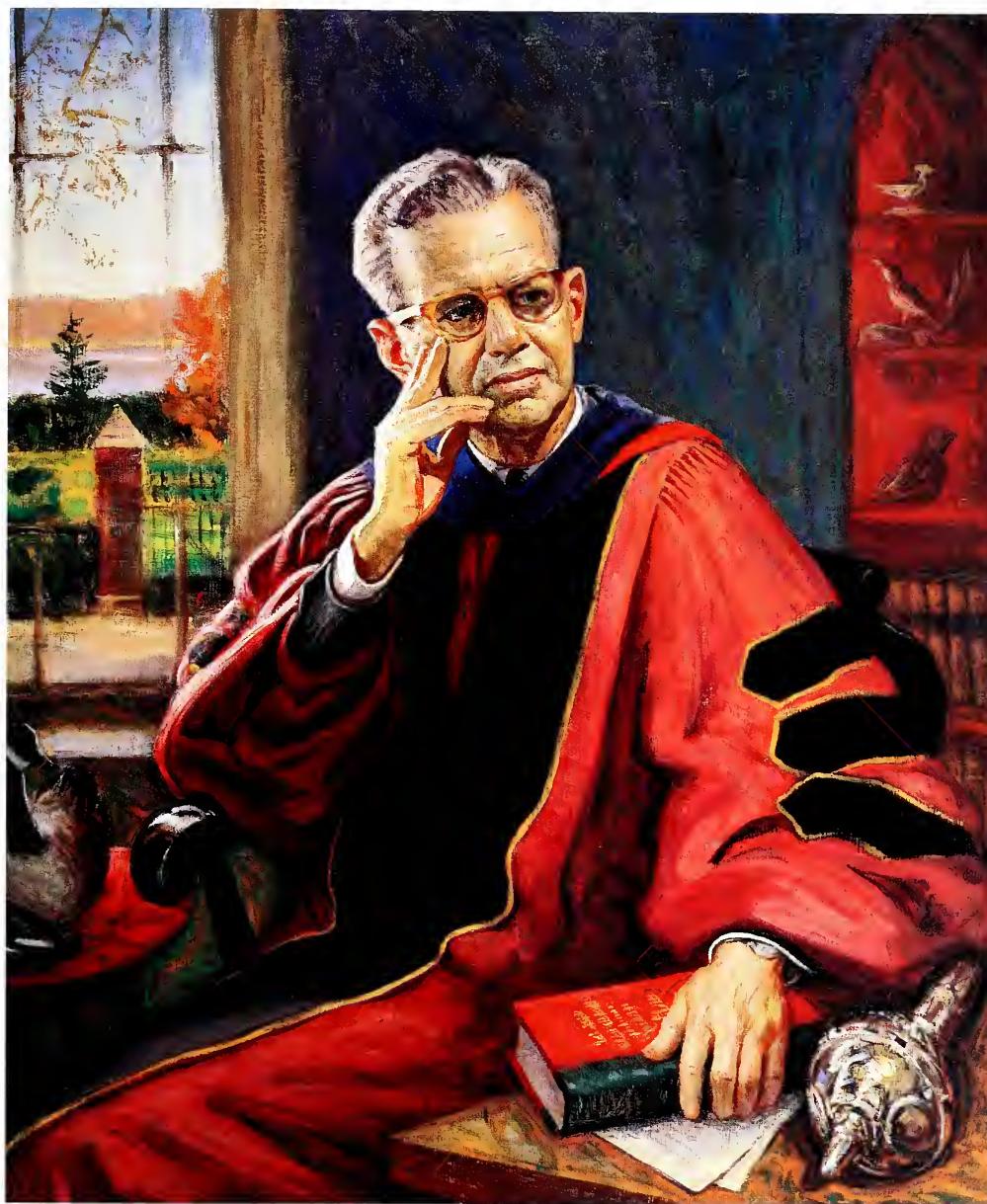
JUNE 1 • STEWART L. UDALL, SON OF A CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE STATE'S SUPREME COURT AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR UNDER U.S. PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE AFTER DELIVERING COMMENCEMENT SPEECH.

The Modern Age

Washington College may have been endowed with great promise through the blessing of the nation's first president in the late eighteenth century, yet it was not until the second half of the twentieth century that the institution truly blossomed into a liberal arts and sciences college of academic distinction and national reputation. Each of the modern presidents faced tremendous challenges with courage and the passion of his convictions. Each left Washington College a wiser, richer, livelier, more compassionate community.

Gibson Built Foundation of Modern Institution

FEW WASHINGTON COLLEGE PRESIDENTS have witnessed such major advances—from the unprecedeted expansion of the physical plant to the eventual overhauling of the relationship between students and the administration—as did Daniel Z. Gibson. The Gibson years (1950-1970) saw two national military drafts, a visit by a United States president, the advent of the Sophie Kerr Prize, the end of football and the second rise of lacrosse, the near demise of Greek organizations on campus, a relatively restrained but determined



Daniel Z. Gibson is credited with shaping a tiny college into a modern post-war institution of national respectability.



Maryland Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, left, and President Daniel Z. Gibson lead the procession during the June 3, 1951, commencement. The College granted McKeldin an honorary law degree that year and the governor attended many official ceremonies at the College.

student political movement, and the beginnings of racial integration among the student body.

When Gibson was elected as the twentieth president, the school had an enrollment of slightly more than 400 students, the campus covered twenty-five acres, the faculty numbered twenty-five, and the endowment was barely \$100,000.

By the time he retired twenty years later, enrollment had increased by more than fifty percent, the campus had grown to ninety acres, the faculty had doubled in size, and the endowment reached \$2.5 million.

Yet perhaps his greatest legacy was strengthening the intellectual environment of Washington College. He considered the faculty to be the lifeblood of

the institution. He endeavored to engage them in intellectual discourse, and sought out their company socially as well. With virtually no money to pay for visiting speakers, the President hosted monthly faculty seminars, where he would ask faculty members to speak on various topics. Gibson revamped the curriculum—adding music, drama, and art—and established the four-course plan that today distinguishes Washington College among its peers. He also broadened the scope of a provincial Board of Visitors and Governors to include intellectuals and academic leaders.

And it was Gibson who devised the four-course plan of study that would encourage students to explore a range of disciplines and then to complete a significant senior research project in the major. The academic program adopted by the faculty and Board in 1959 provided for a modified four-course plan based on the theory that depth and breadth of study is more important than variety in the intellectual experience of a college education. The new program was designed to simplify the mechanical operation of the curriculum, allow more effective use of the faculty's time, and encourage the student to exercise greater responsibility in his or her education.

Gibson was born at Middlesboro, Kentucky, on January 26, 1908. He was graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1929 and received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from the University of Cincinnati in 1931 and 1939, respectively. After earning his first post-graduate degree, Gibson taught English composition and literature at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. From the fall of 1940 until the spring of 1943, he was a member of the English Depart-

I know that what is called the "ivory tower concept" of education is not in favor today, either at the secondary or the higher level.

But the ivory tower has been too rudely scorned.

Young men should dream dreams—and young women, too.

They should have an eminence to which they can withdraw and see the world in perspective. To provide that eminence and

an opportunity to gain perspective is as necessary to the true purpose of the liberal college as a faculty and a library.

From the inaugural speech of Daniel Z. Gibson, October 27, 1951.

1970

JANUARY 24 • COLLEGE TRUSTEES ELECT CHARLES J. MERDINGER TO SUCCEED DANIEL GIBSON AS COLLEGE PRESIDENT; BOARD AGREES TO NAME NEW FINE ARTS BUILDING AFTER GIBSON.

APRIL 1 • BROTHER MASAI OF THE BALTIMORE BLACK PANTHER PARTY CHAPTER, ADDRESSING STUDENTS IN HYNSON LOUNGE, SAYS URBAN STRIFE MAY MANDATE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST POLICE.

APRIL 3 • PROTESTING ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO EXPEL A POPULAR STUDENT FOR POOR CLASS ATTENDANCE, UNKNOWN STUDENTS PAINT GRAFFITI ON THREE CAMPUS BUILDINGS.

MAY 5 • U.S. MILITARY ACTION IN CAMBODIA PROMPTS MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS TO REPLACE CLASSES WITH A TEACH-IN TO DISCUSS OPPOSITION TO WAR IN INDOCHINA.

Q&A with Helen Gibson

Why did you and your husband, Dr. Gibson, decide to come to Washington College? He decided on it. I didn't. I didn't want to come. I hadn't been here and had never really heard of the Eastern Shore. But he had been here once fishing down at Rock Hall. He came with two doctors from Franklin and Marshall. The College here was looking for a president and Dan was suggested. We came down and the decision was made very quickly. I cried for a month before we came. I didn't want to come at all. He didn't know that. This just seemed to be the end of nowhere. Washington College had some good faculty, but there wasn't much quality here. I think if my husband had one talent, he had a talent for getting qualified people around him. He was very good at that. But one of the first things he did was to change the structure of the Board. They changed it to thirty-six members.

What was the purpose behind the restructuring? To get it away from that Eastern Shore mentality. The College was advertised as an Eastern Shore college for the Eastern Shore. It was very parochial.

What do you recall about President Eisenhower's visit in 1954?

His brother Milton Eisenhower got him to come. The President had had a heart attack before and he couldn't come on Sunday, which was the day we usually had commencements. He came the next day. It was funny because there were people who wanted to make sure all the distinguished people from Washington, D.C., were invited to the luncheon. Well, as it happened, Eisenhower didn't come for any luncheon because he came just long enough to give his speech and went back. We didn't have the luncheon. I took the children to the school and we met him in Dan's office. Eisenhower said, "You know, I never wanted to be president. I just would like to have been president of a small college like this." He was a very nice man. Genuinely a nice man.

What was your first impression of Hynson-Ringgold House?

Wilbur Hubbard took us through the house and said, "Isn't this beautiful?" And I said, "Yes, it's beautiful. But how do we live in it?" I had three young children and I just couldn't see how we were going to sleep upstairs in those quarters with the great big hall separating the two big rooms. We finally worked it out. It is a beautiful house, but it's a hard house to live in with children. You couldn't send them upstairs to make their beds before breakfast because you couldn't always go up to see that they had. The house is just too big and too tiresome. There were no servants when we came. There was a woman we got who worked by the day. I subsisted with a lot of different people until the College decided the house would be part of its maintenance and they would send somebody down. That worked very well.

What were the biggest challenges facing the Gibsons when they first came to the College?

The school didn't have much of an endowment. We had just come from a fund-raising drive at Franklin and Marshall. We got the same people who did that one to initiate a drive here. They did a study first and told us, "There's no animosity toward the College, but the trouble is nobody knows anything about it."

Was it Dr. Gibson's intention to break the bonds of parochialism?

Oh, yes. And he had the formidable help of [Board member] George Olds from Easton. He helped out a lot and was simply wonderful.

A year after your husband became president, lacrosse was being returned to Washington College after an absence of fourteen years. Did your husband know anything about the sport?

He didn't know anything about lacrosse. But there had been a big to-do when football was abolished. He said the College can't afford that sport for so few students. That was a big hassle to get over.



Washington College joined in the celebration of Chestertown's 250th anniversary in 1956. In colonial costume are President Daniel Z. Gibson and his wife, Helen. In the center is Maryland Governor Theodore R. McKeldin.

Your husband had a reputation as a man open to different ideas. Can you shed some light on that? He used to go to the snack bar at ten o'clock every morning for a cup of coffee. He was a great coffee drinker. Students would come in and sit down and talk with him. He had an open-door policy on campus. He was always open to students at any time and he wasn't used to a time clock.

What were your husband's interests when he wasn't on campus?

He read all the time. I always said if I married again I'd marry a man who couldn't read. And then I went with a man who didn't read and he was so dull. No matter what came up in conversation, Dan would know about it.

Sometimes your husband's comments got himself into hot water. Remember when *The Kent News* reprinted what he had told a Baltimore magazine in 1969, that he made a distinction between students using marijuana and students using other drugs?

Oh, boy. And that was headlined in *The Kent News*. It wasn't so funny then. But that's the way he felt and he was just honest about it. The remark was taken out of context a bit, but he wasn't usually misunderstood.

What were President Gibson's feelings about integrating the College?

I remember a group of Queen Anne's and Kent alumni out at the country club talking about this question.

They just pilloried him about that. My husband was not a segregationist. Never was. And they didn't like that a bit.

What do you think was your husband's greatest accomplishment while he was at the College? He kept stressing that the purpose of a liberal arts education is to teach people how to think and how to reason. I think he felt he had accomplished that in some measure.

Did Dr. Gibson have any regrets during his twenty years as president?

I know one thing that nearly killed him. On a December night, Glenn L. Martin was in the hospital in Baltimore and Dan was there for several hours talking to him. Mr. Martin had great plans for things he was going to do for Washington College. Dan was very happy because he could use that kind of money. He had given the money for Minta Martin Hall, you know. On the following Sunday morning, Dan was getting dressed to go down to lunch with a widowed friend of his and he got a call that Mr. Martin had had a heart attack and died. Dan was just crushed because Mr. Martin hadn't specified anything in his will for the College. W



The Gibson Fine Arts Center was just one of many facilities added during President Gibson's tenure. Dunning Hall and Hodson Hall were enlarged, and Caroline House, Queen Anne House, Kent House, Minta Martin Hall, Miller Library, and Cain Athletic Center were constructed.

ment at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, leaving there to accept a commission in the United States Naval Reserve. He served as Executive Officer for the Naval Training Unit at Franklin and Marshall College, where he remained until the end of the war. After receiving his discharge, Gibson remained at Franklin and Marshall and later was named dean of the college.

Dr. Gibson, in partnership with his wife, Helen, devoted his energies and talents to the service of Washington College for two decades. He had planned to continue for an additional two years, at which time he would have reached age sixty-five, but his health had deteriorated to such an extent that he felt he should not continue beyond his twentieth year.

In a June 1969 letter to the Board of Visitors and Governors Gibson wrote: "What has been accomplished at the College during my administration I shall

leave for others to assess." The Class of 1970 weighed in with its opinion; it asked Dr. Gibson to be its commencement speaker.

News of his retirement was received with much regret. Howard Medholdt, a member of the Board, expressed the view of his colleagues when he said: "As we look back on the accomplishments of President Gibson on the campus we realize the magnitude of his accomplishments. I am sorry that we must face the prospect of losing what we have had...We wish him well and pray that his health will be improved."

Plans were prepared for a program that would convey to the Gibsons the sincere affection and deep appreciation felt for them by their many friends for the contributions they had made to the College and to the community. As they were lovers of fine music, it was agreed that a concert given in their honor would be the most appropriate expression of love their friends could show them. The young concert pianist John Browning was invited to give a recital on May 9, 1970. Invitations were sent to close friends of the Gibsons, members of the Board, the faculty, administrators, and representatives of the student body. All were requested to observe black-tie dress. Approximately 600 people, the capacity of the auditorium, were present. Following the recital a reception for the Gibsons was held in Hynson Lounge.

Shortly after Dr. Gibson retired, he accepted an offer to serve as dean of Salisbury State College, a position he held for approximately a year and a half. The Gibsons returned to Chestertown.

Dr. Gibson died at age seventy-six on Monday, April 23, 1984, at Kent & Queen Anne's Hospital in Chestertown. Three days later, inside the fine arts center named for him, several hundred friends and admirers joined the Gibson family for a memorial service. "It was President Gibson more than any single

*If the world is to be saved, the individual will save it—
not by some great Napoleonic feat, not by organizing
some new philanthropy or sect, but by the pervasive ever-
widening ripple of influence from each man and woman
living his daily life the best he knows how,
as lovingly, understandingly, and idealistically as possible."*

Daniel Z. Gibson, in his commencement address, 1970.

1970

MAY 6 • ACTOR PAUL NEWMAN, WHOSE SON SCOTT ATTENDS THE COLLEGE, JOINS STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN TAWES THEATRE TO DISCUSS VIETNAM WAR AND THE RECENT KILLINGS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY.

MAY 12 • ASTRONAUT MICHAEL COLLINS, CURRENTLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, DISCUSSES AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY DURING A VISIT TO TAWES THEATRE.

OCTOBER 5 • COLLEGE TRUSTEES DISCUSS UPCOMING INAUGURATION OF NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT MERDINGER; SOME SUGGEST APPEARANCE OF RICHARD NIXON WOULD PUT COLLEGE IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT.

OCTOBER 9 • THE WRITERS UNION, ORGANIZED BY NEW ENGLISH FACULTY MEMBER ROBERT DAY, ENLISTS 47 MEMBERS AND ELECTS DAVID ROACH AS ITS FIRST PRESIDENT.

OCTOBER 15 • LIBRARY OF CONGRESS POET-IN-RESIDENCE WILLIAM STAFFORD READS 15 OF HIS POEMS TO STUDENTS GATHERED IN QUEEN ANNE'S LOUNGE.

person who created the special spirit that defined Washington College in those years and that stands as an even greater heritage than the impressive enhancement of its physical contours for which he is so deservedly widely known," said faculty member and former Acting Dean Nathan Smith.

McLain Brings Intimate Knowledge to Presidency

WHEN JOSEPH H. MCLAIN accepted an interim appointment to the presidency in 1973, he told Board members he was eager to return to the classroom and requested that his job as chairman of the chemistry department be made available to him when the College elected a new president. But McLain, who almost single-handedly had established pyrotechnics as a respected study in the realm of the sciences, soon warmed to the position and dedicated the next eight years—the remainder of his life—to advancing Washington College.

As an alumnus and a member of the faculty, McLain brought a unique perspective to the office of president. There was no doubt that McLain knew his *alma mater*. He had been class president in both his junior and senior years. He earned varsity letters in basketball, football, lacrosse, and track. He was one of the first members of the College chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership fraternity that was brought to campus largely through the efforts of President Gilbert W. Mead. And he graduated *magna cum laude* with the Class of 1937. He returned to Washington College to teach chemistry in 1946, after receiving his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University and serving as a second lieutenant at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal during World War II. He was named head of the chemistry department in 1955 and held the W. Alton Jones Chair in chemistry, won a Lindback Foundation award for distinguished teaching in 1965, and was voted the most popular professor in a campus poll.

Fond of waterfowl hunting, golfing, and card playing, McLain was often the most animated spectator at Shoremen athletic events. He was able to quote from memory passages from the Bible, Shakespeare's plays, and the works of poet Robert Burns. He helped develop rocket propellant formulas and pyrotechnic actuation devices used for stage separations in space flights and eventually would hold more than thirty patents—including several for smoke grenades used by the Army to camouflage movements of advancing troops—and would write three textbooks in the field of solid-state chemistry.

Except for two sabbaticals and the time he served as research liaison manager for Olin Mathieson Corp. in New York in the 1950s, McLain seldom strayed far



Joseph H. McLain is the only Washington College alumnus to become president of his alma mater.

from campus after his return in 1946. Born in West Virginia and reared in Baltimore, McLain became as much an Eastern Shoreman as a non-native can hope to be.

McLain arrived on campus in 1933 and was among the thousands of spectators who witnessed the visit of President Franklin D. Roosevelt that fall for the Mead inauguration. He later confided that a fellow student had sold him a pair of shoes to wear for the ceremony. The shoes were too small for the tall McLain and he slipped one off because it was uncomfortable.

McLain's elevation as president was the first and only time a graduate of the College had been elected its top administrator. A year later, the Board members met in a special session to discuss McLain's salary—an item they had apparently overlooked. They settled on \$32,000 a year.

With the trappings and power of the president's office also came the liabilities. McLain inherited a \$280,000 budget deficit, a fiscal condition he and the Board were to confront—and sometimes repair—each year of his tenure. "It's not an uncommon complaint," McLain told a reporter from a Baltimore newspaper, "but it's knocking the hell out of us. It's difficult when you give a faculty member a ten percent raise and he says that with inflation and taxes and all, he's not doing any better than he was last year."

McLain died of cancer on Sunday, July 26, 1981, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He was sixty-five and had eagerly anticipated the College's bicentennial celebration set for the following year. Hundreds of his friends, colleagues, and former students attended a memorial service for McLain in Tawes Theatre on September 9.

Nathan Smith, long-time professor of history who served as acting dean under Joe McLain, gave a tribute. "No doubt I'm prejudiced, but I really think that I was privileged to share with Joe the very best years of his tenure in that office. Joe identified himself with the College in a rare, perhaps even excessive

[People frequently] asked me, "Where is Washington College?"

I gave up saying Eastern Shore, but I did say in Maryland.

The very next question was, "How big is it?"

I [finally] said, "Why don't you ask me how good it is and not how big it is?"

They got the point. You can't equate size with quality.

Joseph McLain during a November 11, 1979, interview with Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting.



Former First Lady Ann Hollingsworth McLain '40, shown here with Board Chairman Louis L. Goldstein '35, worked side-by-side with her husband to secure the future of Washington College. She remains a valued friend of the College.

way. He wanted it to have the things he had sought for himself: success, recognition for quality performance, financial security. He said he would leave no stone unturned, no byway unexplored in his effort to advance his favorite cause, the welfare and reputation of Washington College.

"It was fun, exhausting but exhilarating, to assist him in that vigorous drive to achieve his goals. I also enjoyed his complete lack of pretentiousness. He really liked people, especially those who did something, knew something, or who had lively views on any subject. He may have been a man of the older generation, so far as the various liberation movements of the recent times were concerned, but he was never a snob. Finally, I admired and drew great pleasure simply from my encounter with his mind. Imaginative, creative, and yet always open to what the other fellow had to offer. Joe tried hard to teach me what entropy meant to a chemist and how to be more comfortable with the manipulation of numbers. He was also the best audience I ever had, for Russian proverbs and historical anecdotes."

1970

NOVEMBER 14 • STUDENTS AND FACULTY HELP TRANSFER BOOKS FROM BUNTING LIBRARY TO THE NEW MILLER LIBRARY.

1971

MARCH 12 • STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION VOTES TO CANCEL THIS YEAR'S SPRING WEEKEND (LAST YEAR THE GROUP IRON BUTTERFLY PERFORMED) AND RECHANNEL \$5,000 TOWARD STUDENT ACADEMIC AID.

APRIL 24 • NEARLY 50 STUDENTS JOIN SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR A PEACEFUL ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATION.

MAY 1 • EIGHT STUDENTS ARE AMONG THE HUNDREDS ARRESTED AT THE ANTI-WAR MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 8 • DR. CHARLES J. MERDINGER IS INSTALLED AS COLLEGE PRESIDENT; SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN E. BURGER DELIVERS INAUGURAL ADDRESS; NEW \$1.5 MILLION CLIFTON M. MILLER LIBRARY IS DEDICATED.

Even His Critics Mourned His Loss

When students returned to school in September 1981 following the summer of President Joseph McLain's death, *The Elm*, which had often been one of the president's sharpest critics on campus, published this assessment of the man.

McLain was a controversial president. Two *Elm* editors called for his resignation in the recent past, and last year controversy over his presidency seemed to peak with the debate about use of the Hill dorms. McLain judged that the renovated dorms should be returned to their former inhabitants, the school's fraternities.

Many students and faculty members disagreed with him on that issue, as well as others. As many people, most probably, would have been angered if the dorms had not been returned to the fraternities. The point here is not that one decision or the other was the right one, but that the issue had no easy resolution.

During McLain's presidency the faculty began to realize that it was being grossly underpaid. The pay increases that McLain managed to get for the faculty did not satisfy many faculty members, and low salaries were responsible at least in part for the resignation of several professors in the past three years.

McLain frequently turned and pointed to a sign behind his desk, a sign that said, "Is it good for Washington College?" That motto is certainly an excellent one for a Washington College president. But last spring one letter to the editor

of this paper questioned whether or not the president's actions had, in fact, been good for the College.

McLain was good for the College in many ways. His enthusiasm for the school that he grew up with and lived for was unbounded. He was responsible for bringing various speakers to the College as well as for publicity for the school that resulted in his many trips throughout the country and abroad. He was well respected among those who dealt in his specialty, pyrotechnics, the field he wanted to 'change from an art to a science.' His expertise involved him in everything from scientific seminars to local fireworks exhibits, and wherever he went in the name of pyrotechnics, Washington College went with him.

Even in the past few years, when so many people have been unhappy with the current state of the College, McLain delighted in taking freshmen into his office and showing them his old yearbooks, page by page. He remembered all old classmates and students. He had many yearbooks on that shelf in the corner of his office, and a lot of them had pictures of him as a lacrosse player, a chemistry major, a chemistry professor, the head of his department, as acting dean, and finally, as College President. McLain graduated from Washington College, but he never left it. Even those who disagreed with him can agree that the qualities he possessed—dedication and enthusiasm—are essential for anyone who takes his place. Whatever final judgment is made on the presidency of Joe McLain, dedication and enthusiasm are good for Washington College. **W**

In the years following his death, Joe's wife, Ann Hollingsworth McLain '40, spearheaded efforts to create an appropriate memorial honoring her husband. In addition to his international renown in the field of pyrotechnics, McLain was keenly interested in conservation issues. Money was raised to endow a chair in the environmental sciences and to fund the McLain Scholarship. The environmental studies program has since evolved into a popular major. In acknowledgment of his passion for athletics, College alumni purchased a bronze bell and had

it installed outside Cain gymnasium, with instructions that the McLain Victory Bell be rung every time a College team wins an athletic contest.

1971

JUNE 2 • NEARLY 100 STUDENTS ENROLL FOR THE NEW GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM.

Douglass Cater Leads College Into “Higher Orbit”

THE PRESIDENCY OF DOUGLASS CATER, a well-known journalist and former White House assistant, marked a turning point for Washington College. In Doug Cater, the Board had found a man of extraordinary vision, intense passion, and inexhaustible energy. In accepting the post, Cater assumed a special burden: would he be capable of leading the institution which bears the name of the country's first president into yet another century? He used every resource, every connection, every persuasion, every moment to take Washington College in what he liked to call “a higher orbit.”

The Cater inauguration took place October 16, 1982. Part of the afternoon activities included a symposium titled “The Future of the Small College.” It was a theme Cater returned to time after time during his presidency.

In the nearly eight years of Cater's tenure (1982-1990), Washington College saw its physical plant expanded significantly and, partly through Cater's high-placed connections in the world of journalism, its visibility heightened. Walter Cronkite, Art Buchwald, David Brinkley, Eric Sevareid, Mark Russell, historian John Hope Franklin, and former First Lady Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Johnson were among those whose campus visits attracted outside attention. Cater also engaged then U. S. Education Secretary William J. Bennett in a spirited debate, using newspaper op-ed pages as a platform, about the role of the independent liberal arts college. Using Washington College as an example, Cater defended small colleges across the country.

Cater delighted in overlapping his two circles of influence and prestige—the Washington College community of academe he had adopted and the Washington, D.C., community of politics and journalism he had recently departed. On the evening of November 11, 1984, Cater presided at a fund-raising event in downtown Baltimore that put both worlds at the same dinner table. The occasion was the launching of the College's new Chair of Public Policy, named for Louis L. Goldstein—Maryland comptroller and College Board chairman. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was the draw and by all accounts, the event was a success. The dinner netted \$250,000 and the next day's newspaper and television reports carried glowing stories about Washington College.

Campus critics argued that Cater's ego was sometimes too large for a small college. But his supporters countered that whatever attention he drew to him-

SEPTEMBER 13 • STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AGREES TO SPEND \$100 TO COVER COSTS OF SEX INFORMATION MANUAL FOR STUDENTS.

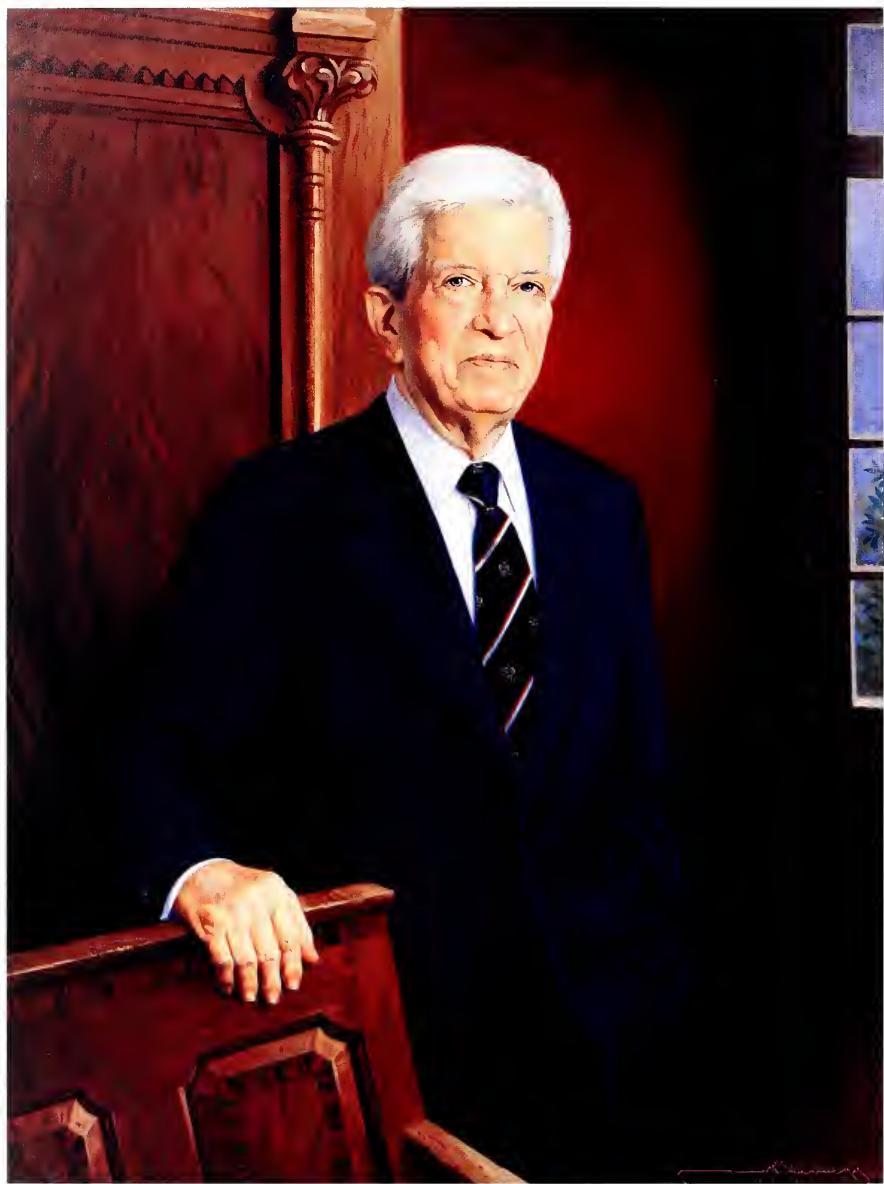
NOVEMBER 17 • STUDENT SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION REQUESTING RESIGNATION OF DR. MERDINGER.

NOVEMBER 20 • COLLEGE TRUSTEES NAME ATHLETIC GROUNDS AFTER “COACH” JOHN THOMAS KIBLER, WHO DIED ON OCTOBER 18.

1972

FEBRUARY 23 • POLICE RAID THE PLAZA LOUNGE AND CHARGE 39 STUDENTS ATTENDING THE POPULAR BAR WITH UNDERAGE DRINKING AND LOITERING.

MARCH 25 • JOHN TRUSLOW BOATHOUSE, HOME TO THE COLLEGE CREW AND NAMED FOR AN EARLY SUPPORTER OF THE SPORT, IS DEDICATED ON BANKS OF CHESTER RIVER.



Douglass Cater's Campaign for Excellence netted more than \$43 million for facilities and academic innovations.

self, he drew to the College. "Whether you love him or hate him—and unless you're brain dead, you have a definite opinion about him—there's no denying that Douglass Cater has done Great Things for Washington College," wrote a student in the campus newspaper *The Elm*.

Cater, son of an Alabama state senator, was a Harvard graduate who made his early mark in Washington, D.C., where he was Washington editor and later national affairs editor for *The Reporter* magazine from 1950 to 1964. Cater was a special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson. During the Johnson administration, Cater worked, in collaboration with Dr. John Gardner and others, on many educational initiatives that became law, including the Higher Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the International Education Act, as well as the creation of the Public Broadcasting Corporation and the Teachers Corps. He served as vice-chairman of England's oldest weekly newspaper, the *Observer*. He received numerous citations in journalism, including the George Polk Memorial Award from Long Island University for "bringing clarity to the complexities of big government" and the Front Page Award for excellence in journalism.

It was Cater who said, during a meeting with Board members as a candidate for the presidency, that a small college should seek its own identity and that Washington College could emphasize writing skills as a way of preparing its students for the workplace. Cater was the author of several books: *Power in Washington* (1964); *The Fourth Branch of Government* (1959), a study of the role of the press in the nation's capitol; a political novel, *Dana: The Irrelevant Man* (1970); and co-author, with Marquis Childs, of *Ethics in a Business Society* (1954). He also was co-author of several studies of the media's role in society: *TV Violence and the Child: The Evolution and Fate of the Surgeon General's Report* (1975), *Television as a*

*It is your amusing opportunity to make a small college great
by keeping it small. In doing so you will be swimming upstream.*

You will have to struggle against the trend of the times.

Fortunately, on the Eastern Shore, that is not so difficult ...

Shoremen are conscious that the tide flows in, as well as out.

*Here, at Washington College, I think that one might work back
to the wellsprings of our greatness as a people.*

Douglass Cater's inaugural remarks, quoting Felix Morley to President Daniel Gibson, October 16, 1982

1972

APRIL 14 • STUDENTS
LEARN THAT PETS, WHO
HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO
WANDER RESIDENCE
HALLS WITH ABANDON,
WILL NO LONGER BE
PERMITTED ON CAMPUS.

MAY 20 • PRESIDENT
MERDINGER TELLS
TRUSTEES HE HAS
NAMED DR. JOSEPH H.
MC LAIN AS ACTING
DEAN.

NOVEMBER 18 •
PRESIDENT MERDINGER
INFORMS BOARD THAT
HE WILL NOT SEEK
REELECTION AS
PRESIDENT. HIS
RESIGNATION IS
EFFECTIVE
FEBRUARY 1, 1973.

1973

OCTOBER 18 • ACTING
DEAN NATE SMITH
ANNOUNCES THAT A
RESERVE FUND OF UP TO
\$10,000 HAS BEEN
EARMARKED FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF A
PROJECTION BOOTH AND
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS
TO THE WILLIAM SMITH
HALL AUDITORIUM.

DECEMBER 1 • BOARD
ELECTS ACTING
PRESIDENT JOSEPH H.
MC LAIN 22ND COLLEGE
PRESIDENT.

1974

SEPTEMBER 25 • A FIRE
OF SUSPICIOUS ORIGIN IS
EXTINGUISHED IN THE
BOATHOUSE BEFORE
SERIOUS DAMAGE IS
DONE.



Former Maryland Governor Harry Hughes, Lady Bird Johnson, and President Carter enjoy a light moment during the Fall 1983 Convocation.

Social Force: New Approaches to TV Criticism (1975), and *The Future of Public Broadcasting* (1976).

In 1955 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study the interaction of press and government in the nation's capital. Two years later he received an Eisenhower Fellowship, and in 1959 was appointed Ferris Professor at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School and in 1962 visiting professor at Wesleyan University and fellow and associate director of its Center for Advanced Studies. After leav-

ing the White House he joined the faculty at the University of California and later was named a consulting professor at Stanford University.

He was a charter member of the Paideia Project, examining the organizing principles for general education in the United States. As a senior fellow and trustee of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Cater founded and was first director of the Institute's Program on Communications and Society.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1923, Cater earned the A.B. degree with honors at Harvard College and an M.P.A. from the Harvard School of Public Administration, as well as honorary degrees from the University of Alabama, Brandeis University, University of the Americas, Marymount College, and Hampden-Sydney College.

During World War II, Cater worked in the Office of Strategic Services. Later, while on leave from *The Reporter*, he served as special assistant to the Secretary of the Army, consultant to the Director of Mutual Security and consultant to the Secretary of State.

Cater died at age seventy-two on Friday, September 15, 1995, while on campus to attend the Saturday presidential inauguration of Dr. John S. Toll.



Libby Cater was a powerful force as First Lady. Upon her husband's retirement, the College awarded her an honorary doctor of public service degree in appreciation for her contributions in advancing Washington College.

1976

MARCH 25 • STUDENT JUDICIARY BOARD FINDS TWO STUDENTS GUILTY OF RIDING A MOTORCYCLE INTO THE HODSON HALL SNACK BAR; THE PAIR MUST WRITE LETTERS OF APOLOGY TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY.

1977

MARCH 26 • COLLEGE CREW CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH DINNER IN HODSON HALL.

1978

FEBRUARY 7 • CLASSES ARE CANCELED AFTER AN UNUSUALLY HEAVY SNOWFALL LEAVES DRIFTS AS HIGH AS FOUR FEET ON CAMPUS.

APRIL 5 • STUDENT VOLUNTEERS PLANT \$1,500 WORTH OF SHRUBBERY AROUND HODSON HALL.

MAY 1 • A SOPHOMORE NICKNAMED "MIAMI" IS TEMPORARILY JAILED BY TOWN POLICE FOR STREAKING, A MAY DAY TRADITION AT THE COLLEGE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

MAY 21 • NOVELIST JAMES MICHENER RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE DURING COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

Q&A with Douglass Cater

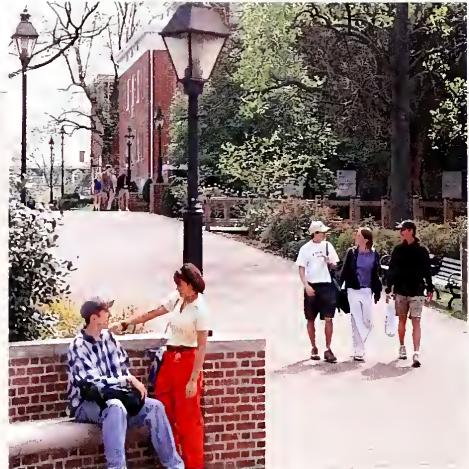
Do you believe the college president has a role as the intellectual leader of the college community? The college president, in this day and time, has to fight hard not to be turned simply into the chief fund-raiser who does all his work on the road while other people have the joy and privilege of making the difference at a college. To achieve the things that an independent college needs can take a lot of money. It doesn't come easy. I have tried to do both—raise the necessary funds while still contributing to the intellectual purposes of the College.

But you do enjoy fund-raising to some extent? There is a blood sport thrill of the chase in fund raising. It's like big game hunting—you go out on the trail and look an elephant in the eye and ask him for a million dollars.

Do you see the president as the "chief innovator"? I find that this job, as I look back on seven full years, takes thirty-five percent brains and sixty-five percent energy. It takes an enormous amount of energy just to brood about the College. It's always somewhere in the back of your mind clicking away. You know when it has clicked too much when you wake up at three o'clock in the morning and you find your brain going around in circles over a particular problem of the day.

As historians look back on the Cater Years at Washington College, what would you most like to be remembered for?

If I had to put it in one word, it would be caring. I feel that I've devoted eight years to a very intensive love affair with a small liberal arts college. It will take more time to define what are the things that succeeded or failed, what lasted or went with the wind. But I do think I managed to bring yeast to the College. One faculty member was quoted in *Maryland Magazine* as saying I brought urban tensions to Chestertown. That's fair commentary



The Cater Walk, so named as a tribute to Doug and Libby Cater, was part of the Master Plan to unite and beautify the College's landscape. Cater's administration oversaw construction of four buildings and the renovation of six more.

because I did bring some tensions here. But I hope that when we look back from a more distant vantage point, they will prove to be creative tensions.

In what ways have you left your personal stamp on Washington College?

When I came to the College, I said somewhat facetiously that I was weary of thinking about big insoluble problems, and that I wanted to spend my time thinking about little insoluble problems. And those words came back to haunt me. The destiny of the small liberal arts college is not subject to neat solutions. It's a great deal different coping with a problem in Bunting Hall than it was helping LBJ launch a major elementary or higher education program. Looking back on eight years, I could not have stayed the course if it had not been for my wife, Libby, who has served, I believe, as the First Lady *par excellence* of Washington College.

*Excerpts from an interview with Douglass Cater by Sue De Pasquale, published in *A Sense of Stewardship*, a collection of speeches and writings by Cater, and from an interview with Douglass Cater published in Washington College Magazine, summer 1989. **W***

Charles H. Trout Diversifies Student Body

By Joseph L. Holt

“FROM THE VERY START, my presidency has stood for a number of things in which I believe deeply—a student body that looks more like America, a strengthened academic program, a plan for eventual growth of the College, a faculty in which teaching and scholarship are in reasonable balance, first-rate academic facilities, a heftier endowment.” With those words, Charles H. Trout announced in the spring of 1994 his resignation at the end of four years as the twenty-fourth president of Washington College.

By his own criteria, the Trout presidency (1990-1995) was a success. But there were shortcomings, some of them difficult to avoid. What is indisputable is that the Trout presidency experienced—sometimes in the harshest manner—the challenges confronting all of higher education as the nation entered the final decade of the millennium.

“Chuck” Trout worked his way up through the academic ranks. He received his bachelor’s degree from Amherst College in 1957 and his master’s degree and doctorate in American history from Columbia University in 1961 and 1972, respectively. He began his teaching career at the secondary level at The Hill School and at The Phillips Exeter Academy. He joined the faculty of Mount Holyoke College in 1969, where he taught courses centered on the sociopolitical history of nineteenth and twentieth century America, and where he eventually served as chairman of the history department. While at Mount Holyoke, Trout was named a National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellow and a Charles Warren Fellow at Harvard University.

In 1977, his book *Boston, The Great Depression, and the New Deal* was published. He also wrote dozens of articles, papers and reviews for history books and journals. In 1981, Trout moved to Colgate University, where he served as provost for a decade before he accepted the presidency at Washington College. In 1984, while at Colgate, Trout met, courted, and married Katherine Taylor Griffiths.

Trout’s years at the College were marked by a number of important physical changes to the campus landscape—completion and dedication of the Eugene B. Casey Academic Center and the Benjamin A. Johnson Lifetime Fitness Center, the renovation of Hodson Hall, and significant landscaping, including the removal of interior parking.

The curricular landscape was reshaped through a number of initiatives. New academic opportunities were launched—concentrations in neuroscience, gender studies, and Chesapeake Regional Studies; consortial arrangements with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and the Pickering Creek Environmental

1979

OCTOBER 1 • MIDDLE, EAST, AND WEST HALLS ARE PLACED ON THE U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR’S NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

NOVEMBER 9 • MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE REPUBLICANS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE HODSON HALL AGAINST IRAN FOR HOLDING 60 AMERICANS HOSTAGE IN TEHRAN.

NOVEMBER 12 • STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION VOTES 18-8 IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION TO BAN SMOKING IN WILLIAM SMITH HALL.

1980

FEBRUARY 23 • MARYLAND GOVERNOR HARRY HUGHES IS CONVOCATION SPEAKER; COLLEGE TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE \$10.25 MILLION “THIRD CENTURY FUND” CAMPAIGN.

MAY 3 • HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE RICHARD, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, IS GIVEN HONORARY DEGREE DURING QUEEN ANNE’S DAY IN CENTREVILLE; IT IS ONLY THE SECOND TIME THE COLLEGE HAS PRESENTED AN HONORARY DEGREE OFF CAMPUS (THE FIRST TIME WAS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON).



An academician, Charles H. Trout promoted opportunities for faculty. A backlog of deferred sabbaticals was erased, new endowments provided sabbatical leave for non-tenured professors, and new criteria for promotion and tenure were implemented to recognize scholarship on an equal footing with teaching and service. He also launched an affirmative action recruitment program.

Center; the integration of living and learning through the founding of theme houses devoted to science and to internationalism; expansion of international studies offerings and formal exchange agreements with universities in France, Spain, and Germany; the revivification of the sciences, including expanded undergraduate research opportunities; access to the Internet and the completion of the fiber optic cable to the student residence halls across Washington Avenue; and an automated and fully-integrated computer system in the library.

During the Trout years, the overall student enrollment of 840 remained unchanged. But behind these numbers is one of Trout's most significant accomplishments—the increased diversity of the undergraduate population. The percentage of minority students tripled from three percent to nearly ten percent,

and the percentage of international students more than doubled from slightly more than two percent to more than five percent. Overall, the number of minority and international students grew from forty-eight to 139—a milestone for Washington College.

An avid sports enthusiast, Trout attended most home athletic contests and was responsible for a number of initiatives that enhanced the intercollegiate athletic experience for undergraduates, especially women. Trout elevated the status of most College coaches to full-time positions and authorized the addition of women's basketball to the varsity level. During his years, the College joined the new Centennial Conference as a charter member.

The Trout administration also marked the conclusion of the successful Campaign for Excellence. The natural drop-off that follows such comprehensive fundraising campaigns was anticipated, yet his administration produced record results in fundraising in subsequent years. Overall, \$16 million was raised, the endowment grew from \$19 million to \$27 million, and the value of the physical plant increased by \$3.3 million. But it was not enough to keep pace in tough times.

Despite his accomplishments, the times seemed to conspire against Trout on other fronts. The Trout years at Washington College coincided with major demographic changes—in 1993 the number of eighteen-year-olds was twenty-five percent less than just a decade earlier. The national economy experienced a downturn following the rapid expansion of the 1980s, a predicament particularly severe in Maryland. As a result, the College's annual operating budgets experienced unusual pressures.

With fewer students recruited and with the College granting substantially higher scholarship awards, there was a dramatic decline in net tuition revenue. During the same period, Maryland lawmakers responded to the state's own fiscal crisis by rescinding almost \$300,000 in annual state aid, the stock market performance resulted in disappointing returns, and the Board of Visitors and Governors reduced by one-third the spending rate from endowment. These factors contributed to annual budget revenue shortfalls approaching one million dollars a year. Efforts to balance operating budgets were painful. For two years no pay increases were awarded for faculty and staff, operating budgets were cut, and staff reductions were effected through attrition and terminations. Funds functioning as endowment were depleted through end-of-year transfers to balance the College budget.

While the College faced serious financial difficulties, members of the faculty and staff were asked to do more with less. It was in this setting that the College's decennial reaccreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools became a primary focus for the institution. In an effort to return the school to financial and academic health, the College Board in September 1992 directed

1980

SPRING • "DUTCH"
DUMSCHOTT'S HISTORY
OF WASHINGTON
COLLEGE IS PUBLISHED.

SEPTEMBER 18 •
FORMER C.I.A.
DIRECTOR WILLIAM
COLBY COMES TO
CAMPUS AS GUEST OF
WILLIAM JAMES FORUM.

1981

FEBRUARY 28 • EASTERN
SHORE NATIVE AND
ROUSE COMPANY
CHAIRMAN JAMES W.
ROUSE, WHOSE
PROJECTS INCLUDE
COLUMBIA, MD., AND
HARBORPLACE IN
BALTIMORE, IS GUEST
SPEAKER AT
WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY
CONVOCATION.

MARCH 17 • A TIME
CAPSULE SEALED FOR
137 YEARS IN MIDDLE
HALL'S CORNERSTONE IS
OPENED TO REVEAL
EIGHT COINS AND WHAT
APPEARS TO BE A
NEWSPAPER, NOW
REDUCED TO
UNREADABLE DUST AND
FRAGMENTS.

MARCH 19 • WILLIAM
JAMES FORUM BRINGS
TO CAMPUS CAL
THOMAS, VICE
PRESIDENT OF
COMMUNICATIONS FOR
MORAL MAJORITY, INC.

APRIL 6 • FACULTY
APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE
A PROPOSED BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
MAJOR.



With his talent for gourmet cooking and her flair for dramatic presentation, Chuck and Katherine Trout were famous for their stylish and elegant entertaining at the Hynson-Ringgold House.

the administration to undertake a planning process that included as one of its elements the expansion of the student body to 1,150 students by the year 2000.

As a first step, the faculty developed a new mission statement for the College that was approved by the Board in December 1992. A college-wide planning committee was convened in January 1993 under the direction of Provost and Dean Gene Wubbels. By fall 1993, a preliminary plan was circulated for com-

1981

JULY 1 • COLLEGE DEAN

GARRY CLARKE IS
NAMED ACTING
PRESIDENT WHILE DR.
MC LAIN RECUPERATES
FROM SURGERY.

JULY 26 • DR. JOSEPH H.
MC LAIN, COLLEGE
PRESIDENT SINCE 1973,
DIES.

JULY 30 • MARYLAND
SEN. CHARLES MATHIAS
INSERTS TRIBUTE TO THE
LATE DR. MC LAIN INTO
CONGRESSIONAL
RECORD.

AUGUST 4 • MARYLAND
REP. ROY DYSON
INTRODUCES
RESOLUTION HONORING
COLLEGE BICENTENNIAL.

SEPTEMBER 4 • DR.
NATE SMITH IS NAMED
ACTING DEAN OF THE
COLLEGE.

OCTOBER 9-11 •
HOMECOMING
WEEKEND FEATURES
PROCESSIONS, FLAG
RAISING, CONVOCATION
AND OTHER EVENTS
SPECIAL TO THE OPENING
OF THE COLLEGE'S
BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION.

OCTOBER 21 • A
READING BY POET AND
TRANSLATOR W.S.
MERWIN ATTRACTS 150
PEOPLE TO THE WILLIAM
SMITH HALL
AUDITORIUM.

DECEMBER 8 •
RICHMOND HOUSE,
HOME FOR 10 YEARS TO
COLLEGE WRITERS, IS
RAZED.

ment within the College community. After much time, only the weakest of faculty support could be mustered for the plan. When the Middle States reaccreditation team arrived on campus in March 1994, campus morale was low and confusion about the future direction of the College was evident.

In early May, disputes between the faculty and the administration boiled over. The faculty passed a resolution of no-confidence against the provost. A special meeting of the full Board was convened in Annapolis on June 2 to discuss the faculty vote. The Board voted a resolution of support for the provost. Despite this support, the provost announced his intention to resign his position and to accept an appointment at the National Science Foundation.

This action was quickly followed by an announcement by Trout that he, too, would resign his position at the College. In a parting letter to parents of Washington College students, Trout noted that, "Presidents come and presidents go, but institutions endure. The challenge for Washington College is for the faculty, administration, and the Board of Visitors and Governors to cooperate on a progressive *modus vivendi*. It is my belief that with the present groundwork in place they will do so."

We have a unique opportunity to take full advantage of our extraordinary surroundings and to understand the texture of our "situation" in all its many forms. To this enterprise, we must at all times bring to our studies the disciplined modes of inquiry that are so special to the liberal arts—critical, rigorous evaluation of evidence, formulation of incisive questions, knowing how to find answers to these questions, knowing how to communicate the answers to others.

From inaugural address of Charles H. Trout, October 6, 1990.

John S. Toll Connects College's Past to Its Future

By Marcia C. Landskroener

AT AGE SEVENTY-ONE, John S. Toll had made clear his intention to serve as acting president of Washington College only until the Board's national search for a full-time successor to Charles H. Trout was concluded. But before long, the trustees realized that Toll—the University of Maryland chancellor emeritus and a respected physicist with a reputation for building research universities—was their best bet at getting Washington College back on a sound financial footing and guiding it into the next century.

On September 16, 1995, John Toll was inaugurated as the twenty-fifth president of Washington College. He immediately set about the task of problem-solving in his typical scientific manner. In addition to the College's financial crisis, other problems loomed—poor retention, substandard faculty salaries, curricular issues, and the need for improved facilities and up-to-date technology. For a man used to large-scale endeavors, the challenges facing Washington College were nothing a few dozen million dollars and a focused administration with a plan couldn't solve.

In the first two years, the College's senior-level administration, joined by a core group of faculty, Board members, students, and alumni, undertook intensive planning sessions that resulted in a ten-point strategic plan for growth and improvement. The College's decade plan embraced its historic connection with George Washington and its tradition of providing personalized education. Among the goals were to increase the size of the student body and to boost the school's financial resources.

A graduate of Yale University with "highest honors," Dr. Toll earned his master's and doctoral degrees in physics from Princeton University, where he helped to establish what later became known as the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. He spent most of his teaching career at the University of Maryland, where he was chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from 1953 to 1965. During that time he helped to launch the Universities Research Association (URA), a consortium of major research universities that manages the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, the world's leading research facility in high energy physics. After a thirteen-year period as professor and president of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Dr. Toll returned to the University of Maryland as president, and after ten years was named chancellor of the University of Maryland System. Prior to coming to Washington College, he had served for five years as president of URA, which then was working on the most advanced accelerator project as well as managing the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.



In his four months as acting president, John S. Toll was charmed by the history and character of the College. The high-profile physicist and university leader agreed to serve full-time, determined to make Washington College “one of the best small liberal arts and sciences colleges in the country.”

Q&A with Dr. John S. Toll

How did it come to pass that you were named Acting president in 1995? Were Washington College Board Chairman Louis L. Goldstein and Board member John Moag involved?

Exactly right. Both were good friends of mine. I was in charge of the University of Maryland System for over 11 years, reporting to the Board of Regents. During that time Louis Goldstein, as comptroller of the state, got an ex officio invitation to every meeting of the board and he came almost every time. The other members of the state Board of Public Works—the governor and the treasurer—never came. He was the only one of that key group who knew everything that was going on. He'd say to me, "I'm on your side. What can I do for you?" He was incredibly helpful to the University during that period and we became very good friends.

When he heard that I was retiring from URA, they approached me. John did so at first. John Moag was the chief aide to Congressman Steny Hoyer. Among many things, Steny was wonderful in dealing with any problems of the University of Maryland. And the person who did much of work was a young fellow named John Moag. I got to know John Moag. Steny and John were a wonderful pair to work with. John and Louis called me and I talked to them both. I said sure, because I felt obligated enough to Louis to come here to fill in for four months.

That was not the first time you had visited the campus in Chestertown.

No. I came here first when Joe McLain was president. He and I were both serving on the Governor's Science Advisory Committee. The two of us were assigned some job—I frankly don't remember what the issue was—I just remember that I came over here to meet with him and we worked it out quickly. Then he took me for a tour of the campus. I thought it was a charming campus. I liked it. It was a great place. But I didn't know it

well then. I came here later as Acting President particularly because of my obligation to Louis Goldstein.

When you got the telephone calls from Goldstein and Moag, were you made aware of the financial straits the College was in?

They were quite honest with me about the situation. Financial stringency was the principal problem they felt they faced. The financial predicament had to be dealt with.

You thought you would be on campus only four months, enough time for the Board's presidential search committee to complete its task.

Right. They had a very fine search committee headed by Bob Duemling. They did a good search and they brought in leading candidates and interviewed them. But at the end of the search, they came to me and said, "Well, we've seen good candidates but we would prefer to have you stay on as president." I hadn't intended at all to do that. I told them at the beginning I was just here for the interim. But I was enjoying it by then. I'd fallen in love with the place. When they asked me, I said they should get somebody younger who can stay 10 years. Their response was, "Why don't you?" So I said, okay, I'll try.

During that period, you must have impressed many Board members whom you had only met four months earlier.

I wasn't out courting them, but I was telling them what I thought we had to do as an institution. I'll say they really impressed me. Let me give an example. I went to my first Board meeting and said, "Look. We face a critical financial crisis. Unless we do something, we're going to have a deficit at the end of the year. I've cut the budget as much as I think I reasonably can. But to have a balanced budget without permanent damage, we're going to have to raise the annual fund—the gifts we get from outside—for that fiscal year which was

going to end in six months by fifty percent above the previous year, which had been a record for the institution. And the Board agreed and the Board went out and raised that money. That impressed me! This is a board that really cares about the institution. Later that spring I came to them with the idea of the Washington Scholars. That was a big risk. We greatly increased the scholarship bill. But they were willing to do that. So I came away tremendously impressed by their willingness to look carefully at an issue and then to take a courageous step when they had to.

The objective of the Washington Scholars was to get out of the red ink, but how did you believe such a risky venture would succeed?

I made projections that the Washington Scholars program would, in effect, pay for itself. It's a complicated thing, but essentially I said it'll increase the number of students who apply, and so, while our scholarships will go up, the net tuition revenue will go up. In fact, it did go up by almost a million dollars the first year. The origin of that idea is from (Vice President for Admissions) Kevin Coveney. I asked him what are we going to do to get more good students. We have unused capacity. And he presented several ideas, but one of them was his idea of making a treaty with the National Honor Society. We met with the National Honor Society leaders and they were willing to publicize the plan. That just seemed to us too good a deal to pass up.

Was increasing the student enrollment an early option to confronting the financial problems?

Yes. Either that or reduce expenditures by reducing the faculty and so on, and that's always very wrenching. The sensible thing was to try to do it by increasing enrollment and by filling our capacity.

What is it like to have as a major part of your job going out and asking people for money?

That's very pleasant. You only ask people who are nice people, who are generous people and who are inter-

ested in what you're interested in. There are much more unpleasant things than asking people for money. For example, a more difficult thing is having to give unpleasant news to faculty, who didn't get promoted or who didn't get tenure. That's the tougher side of the job. You have to do what is always in the interest of the institution and that often means you have to turn people down from achieving their desires. That's the most painful part of the job.

Are there any ghosts in Hynson-Ringgold House? It's a creaky house. You can imagine ghosts. It does have a lot of sounds. I've always said I am the ghost of Hynson-Ringgold House. No doubt, on a windy night there are lots of strange noises in that house. It's a wonderful house. We enjoy it tremendously. I like waking up in the morning and seeing the sun rise over the Chester River. It's hard to beat.

What would you, the twenty-fifth College president, like to leave as a legacy?

I'm not motivated by trying to set my own record or to go down in the history books. Each of us is transitory. I just want to do the best job I can while I'm here. I don't particularly care whether I'm remembered or not. Whether you get your name on a building depends more on your successor much more than on you. I would rather my successors work on getting millions for the institution and putting the millionaires' names on the buildings and not mine. Once I'm gone, I don't think many people will remember me. I don't care if I'm remembered. I do hope by the time I leave here that the future of Washington College will be stabilized, that we'll have adequate endowment and facilities and traditions and programs and policies so that it will continue to be one of the best small colleges of arts and sciences in the country. That's my goal. I told the Board I thought it would take about ten years to get where I hope to go and I still think that's probably a good estimate. I've been here four years and I think another six years is about what it's going to take. W

In Chestertown, John Toll was testing the waters of Washington College, a decidedly different environment from the sprawling academic systems where he had spent most of his career. At an age when most people consider retirement, Toll threw himself into his new job, challenging himself and his colleagues to find ways to increase revenue without inflicting debilitating budget cuts. For starters, Toll asked the Board and the College development team to increase the annual fund goal by fifty percent over the previous year to raise two million dollars, and they did. At his inauguration, he announced a radical tuition discounting plan that represented an even bigger fund-raising commitment—to spend more money on merit scholarships as a means to attract more applicants, and thus to improve net tuition revenue.

The Washington Scholars program, offering automatic scholarship awards of up to \$40,000 over four years to all accepted applicants who are members of their high school's National Honor Society Chapter, was the key to enrollment growth. This partnership with the National Honor Society expanded the scope and range of the College's admissions efforts, garnered attention in the national press, and helped push enrollment over the 1,100-student mark. In the first four years of the program, Washington Scholars accounted for more than half of each entering class. An added benefit was increased student involvement in music and drama groups and leadership outlets and in service programs, led by this targeted group of high achievers.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Toll outlined what he considered "the essential ingredients" for an outstanding education: a safe environment conducive to learning; a faculty and staff committed to an interactive mode of teaching; a finely-tuned curriculum that challenges students to engage in learning and to apply their knowledge; and technologically advanced learning resources that permit a small college to have access to a world of information. He promised to submit balanced budgets, to work to increase faculty salaries, and to improve curricula, libraries and laboratories. He vowed to build Daly Hall—a facility to house classrooms and faculty offices—and to renovate William Smith Hall and the residence halls "to be excellent living-learning facilities."

Toll quickly made good on most of those promises and continued to champion scholarships and endowment as the greatest priorities for raising funds. Recognizing the need for improved facilities, he oversaw the construction of Daly Hall and the renovation of William Smith Hall, and initiated plans for yet another academic building to be known as the Louis L. Goldstein Hall in honor of the late alumnus and chairman of the College Board. In September 1998, six months ahead of schedule, the College publicly launched a seventy-two million-dollar fund-raising campaign to support the goals of the Strategic Plan, including strengthening international studies and centers of excellence in the areas of creative writing, environmental studies, and the American experience.

Toll's greatest assets in helping Washington College achieve its goals are his optimism, his tenacity, and his stamina. When he accepted the permanent College presidency, he was still advising doctoral students at College Park, while also completing his commitments to the URA. He frequently puts in eighteen-hour days and attends every College event he can. "All it takes is one student and a violin, and Dr. Toll is there," said Vice President for Administration Joseph Holt.

There is also his keen intellect and what is known as "the Toll factor," the expansive breadth of his network of influential political figures and statesmen, scientists, academicians, and others who have known him in some capacity throughout the fifty years of his career.

As past chairman of the National Sea Grant Review Panel, Dr. Toll still conducts site reviews around the country. He served recently as president of the Washington Academy of Sciences, and remains involved with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He had led a Middle States Review team to Washington & Jefferson College, and also serves on the boards of the Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities Association and the Centennial Conference.

"Everyone in the academic community, in political circles, and in the science community holds Dr. Toll in the highest regard," Holt said of the one-time Washingtonian of the Year and the individual whom the Chestertown Optimists named Man of the Year.

To illustrate his point, Holt recalled accompanying Dr. Toll to the funeral of Hazel Goldstein, wife of the Maryland comptroller. "We arrived late, because I

1981

DECEMBER 11 •
DOUGLASS CATER,
FORMER ADVISER TO
LYNDON B. JOHNSON,
VISITS CAMPUS AS
CANDIDATE FOR
COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

FEBRUARY 8 • ACTING
PRESIDENT GARRY
CLARKE LEARNS FROM A
WHITE HOUSE AIDE
THAT PRESIDENT
RONALD REAGAN
CANNOT ATTEND
UPCOMING
CELEBRATION OF
COLLEGE BICENTENNIAL.

FEBRUARY 20 •
TRUSTEES ELECT S.
DOUGLASS CATER NEW
COLLEGE PRESIDENT
EFFECTIVE JULY 1.

APRIL 24 • PRESIDENT-
ELECT DOUGLASS
CATER SUGGESTS TO
TRUSTEES THAT THE
COLLEGE BE MARKETED
AS AN INSTITUTION
WHERE STUDENTS
LEARN TO WRITE WELL.

1982

OCTOBER 4 • BOARD
CHAIRMAN LOUIS L.
GOLDSTEIN TELLS
TRUSTEES THAT
BUSINESSMAN EUGENE B.
CASEY WANTS COLLEGE
COMMUNITY, INCLUDING
STUDENTS, TO TELL HIM
HOW THEY WANT TO
SPEND HIS ANTICIPATED
\$5 MILLION FINANCIAL
LARGESS, SCHEDULED
TO BEGIN WITH A
\$1 MILLION GIFT.

*Throughout its long and distinguished history,
Washington College has remained focused on the primacy of the
liberal arts as an ideal undergraduate educational experience
and as an unparalleled preparation for a life of thoughtful inquiry,
enterprise, and responsible citizenship.*

*In 1782, Washington College was the first college chartered in
the new nation. Today it is increasingly recognized as among the
first in the quality of its undergraduate program.*

John S. Toll, in the 1999-00 catalog.



John Toll and his wife, the former Deborah Ann Tantor, maintain busy schedules on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay. She had a career in economics and journalism before becoming involved in higher education as the wife of a university president. She continues to work as a volunteer for organizations in support of journalism and the arts.

was driving, and a former state senator embraces Dr. Toll, walks us into the over-flowing church, and seats us in the second row behind Maryland's two United States senators. Meanwhile, the presidents of St. John's College and Johns Hopkins University are standing along the wall in the back of the church."

That following has helped Washington College bring national figures to campus. Retired Army General Colin Powell, Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, George and Barbara Bush, and John F. Kennedy Jr. visited Washington College at his urging in 1998 and 1999. So did renowned scientists Glenn Seaborg, who holds patents on forty-three chemical processes and who had discovered more elements than anyone, and James Watson, co-discoverer of the double helix structure of DNA. Both are nobel laureates and personal friends of Toll.

Toll's charm and influence also extend to charitable foundations, an important element in the early success of the Campaign for Washington's College. After securing a five-million-dollar grant from the C.V. Starr Foundation for the launching of the Center for the Study of the American Experience, Dr. Toll won a \$300,000 grant from the Crystal Trust, its first gift to Washington College since the 1960s, and another \$300,000 for computer technology upgrades from the Mellon Foundation, that organization's first gift to the College in twenty-five years. He is giving top priority to the campaign to raise \$72 million in private funds to assure the future excellence of the College. By the end of 1999, more than \$54 million had been committed. **W**

1982

OCTOBER 15 • JOSEPH H. MC LAIN VICTORY BELL, INTENDED TO BE RUNG FOLLOWING TEAM WINS, DEDICATED OUTSIDE CAIN GYMNASIUM IN MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT MC LAIN.

OCTOBER 15-16 • TWO-DAY INAUGURATION OF S. DOUGLASS CATER AS 23RD PRESIDENT INCLUDES ART EXHIBITIONS, A SYMPOSIUM, A SOCCER GAME, AND AN ALL-CAMPUS DANCE.

1983

FEBRUARY 2 • PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION SPOKESMAN KAHLIN FOURAH DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST TURMOIL AT WILLIAM JAMES FORUM.

FEBRUARY 16 • PRESIDENT CATER, APPEARING ON MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION'S "IN PERSON" PROGRAM, DISCUSSES ROLE OF LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 22 • "ON THE MAP," AN EXHIBITION OF 60 RARE CHESAPEAKE REGION MAPS, OPENS IN MILLER LIBRARY.

Friends and Benefactors

In the wake of George Washington's gift of fifty guineas, Washington College captured the imagination of countless friends and benefactors who believed in the value of this small liberal arts and sciences institution and who wanted to help it succeed. A few of those people have provided the kind of leadership that is best described as inspired, visionary, even catalytic. The ever-widening circles of fortune stemming from a chance meeting, a good deed, a common bond, a shared vision for a better future, are still reverberating on the College campus.

Lore and Generosity Link Hodson Trust to WC

WITHIN THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE COMMUNITY, the story of how benefactor Colonel Clarence Hodson and the school discovered each other may be partly apocryphal, but it is popular, too, and shows no signs of wearing out.

Hodson and his driver were motoring through Chestertown one day in 1919, the tale begins, when they had a flat tire just as they were passing the Hill dorms. Students and faculty members were so helpful fixing the tire that Hodson, the fifty-one-year-old president of the Beneficial Loan Society, was immediately smitten with the College.



Colonel Clarence Hodson, a descendent of an early American family that settled on Maryland's Eastern Shore, was a pioneer in the consumer finance industry and an early supporter of Washington College.

1983

FEBRUARY 26 •
NATIONAL BOOK
AWARD-WINNER LEWIS
THOMAS RECEIVES
WASHINGTON COLLEGE
AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE AT
CONVOCATION.

APRIL 23 • PRESIDENT
CATER INFORMS
TRUSTEES THAT EUGENE
CASEY WILL PAY FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF AN
INDOOR POOL ADJACENT
TO THE GYMNASIUM.

MAY 15 • FORMER CBS
EVENING NEWS
ANCHORMAN WALTER
CRONKITE IS
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER.

SEPTEMBER 7 • LADY
BIRD JOHNSON
RECEIVES HONORARY
DEGREE DURING FALL
CONVOCATION IN
GIBSON FINE ARTS
BUILDING.

SEPTEMBER 24 •
BENEFACCTOR EUGENE B.
CASEY ATTENDS
GROUND BREAKING
CEREMONY FOR
COLLEGE NATATORIUM.

1984

FEBRUARY 14 • STUDENT
JUDICIARY BOARD
REPRIMANDS STUDENT
FOR THROWING A
SNOWBALL AT A
CHESTERTOWN FIRE
DEPARTMENT VEHICLE
IN JANUARY.



In 1936 The Hodson Trust funded the construction of Hodson Hall, as well as the 1964 addition that provided space for a new dining room, snack bar, bookstore, and student lounge.

Hodson's beneficence ranged from friendly advice to, ultimately, millions of dollars which have been used to purchase land, build buildings, and fund scholarships. Hodson Hall, dedicated on October 24, 1936, was erected through his generosity. An amateur scholar of Native American history, he once delivered an address titled "American Indians as Orators" to the students.

On commencement day about three years after his introduction to the campus, Hodson was granted an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He was a Board member for six years until his death in 1928. In fourteen years the Beneficial Loan Society had grown from one office to two hundred offices across the United States. After his death, his interest in Washington College and other Maryland

schools was continued by his wife, their daughter, Lelia Hodson Hynson, and their granddaughter, Sally Hynson Hopkins, who represents the Hodson family on the College board today. By the close of the twentieth century, The Hodson Trust, now under the stewardship of Finn M. W. Caspersen, had awarded Washington College more than twenty-nine million dollars.

The tale of the flat tire—some versions of the story say students had put tacks in the road to entrap a benefactor—cannot be proved. Or disproved. What is known about Hodson's first encounter with the College comes from Dr. Clarence P. Gould, College president from 1919 to 1923, who described the July 1919 meeting in a letter he wrote in 1952, when he was a professor at Youngstown University.

One summer morning I started over to the main building for my mail and met a man walking down the drive towards the main road alongside a large car with a chauffeur. I asked him if he was interested in seeing the College and he replied that Middle Hall had attracted his attention and he had just been going around it. I invited him to go into the hall and also the rest of the College, and he accepted. As we went over the plant he would every now and then mention something that needed to be done and tell me to have the work taken care of and charge it to him. All together there were twelve small items, amounting in total to perhaps \$400 or \$500 in cost. He gave me his card, but since I had never heard of Colonel Hodson, I at first hesitated about having the work done. The College simply did not have \$400 to pay in case he did not make good. Finally I had one small item done and sent the bill to the Colonel. A check came very promptly and a long letter, mentioning each of the other eleven things that he had told me to have done. They were all promptly attended to and paid for.

Hodson was born in Laurel, Delaware, in February 1868 and lived in Crisfield—the Chesapeake Bay village named after Washington College alumnus John Woodland Crisfield—for twenty-eight years before moving to Baltimore. He was educated at Crisfield Academy and under private tutors. He read law, was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1889, and practiced in Crisfield and later in Baltimore. In 1893, at age twenty-five, Hodson was elected president of the Bank of Crisfield. He was commissioned a colonel in the Maryland Militia in 1896 and served four years. He was an officer of loan companies, trust companies and fire insurance companies. Hodson's father, Thomas S. Hodson, was an Eastern Shore teacher, minister, lawyer, newspaper publisher and politician. Colonel Hodson provided the assets for the Hodson Trust in memory of his father, who died in 1920.

The Colonel's interest in the College could not have been more timely. The school was in a financial crisis and still owed on the rebuilding of William Smith

1984

FEBRUARY 28 • U.S.
SUPREME COURT
JUSTICE SANDRA DAY
O'CONNOR RECEIVES
HONORARY DEGREE
DURING WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY
CONVOCATION.

SEPTEMBER 19 •
BALTIMORE MAYOR
WILLIAM DONALD
SCHAEFER RECEIVES
HONORARY DEGREE
DURING FALL
CONVOCATION.

OCTOBER 5 • THE
CASEY SWIM CENTER, A
CONTRIBUTION OF
EUGENE B. CASEY,
FORMALLY OPENS.

NOVEMBER • WITH HELP
FROM A DONATION BY
BOARD MEMBER HENRY
C. BECK JR., THE
COLLEGE ACQUIRES A
NETWORK OF APPLE
MACINTOSH
COMPUTERS.

1985

APRIL 20 • LELIA
HYNSON PAVILION AND
TRUSLOW BOATHOUSE,
ON THE BANKS OF
CHESTER RIVER, ARE
DEDICATED IN HONOR
OF THE DAUGHTER OF
THE LATE COL. HODSON.

APRIL 27 • COLUMNIST
ART BUCHWALD IS
SPEAKER DURING
PARENTS DAY
ACTIVITIES.

Hall, which had burned in 1916. Rumors circulated that the College might fail and be taken over by the state.

Hodson maintained a steady—at times daily—stream of communications with College administrators. From his office in the Havemeyer Building in New York City, he sent books and magazines for the library, newspaper clippings of various subjects to Gould, and unsolicited but well-intended bits of advice to Board members on how to pull the College out of its penury. He was among the first to suggest that the Board hire a professional fundraiser.

On several occasions Hodson sent checks to Gould and other administrators so they could take vacations. Upon learning that the College football team was to play the University of Pennsylvania, Hodson mailed Gould a check for fifteen dollars for “some little entertainment or refreshments” for the players.

Once, when his investment company received a shipment of blackboard chalk it did not need, Hodson sent it off to Gould, “just wondering if you can make use of any of it.” Not one to turn down a gift of any size, Gould accepted the chalk.

Hodson was among the crowd that attended the September 11, 1920, “Get-Together Dinner” on campus to discuss the College’s problems. An Endowment and Debt Fund Committee was charged, first of all, with the duty of raising \$60,000 to clear the indebtedness of the College and to look into raising an endowment fund.

The committee’s first meeting was held the next month in Philadelphia. Hodson attended and contributed \$1,000 to cover expenses of the campaign. Later on, he gave another \$1,000. When the College decided in 1919 to provide housing for female students after a hiatus of a number of years, it first had to find funds to renovate Normal Hall, later renamed Reid Hall. Again, Hodson stepped forward, as described by an article in the *Washington College Bulletin* of September 14, 1921: “The dormitory for women will be reopened this year. The building has fallen into bad order during the several years of disuse. But a generous gift from Colonel Hodson of New York has enabled the College to do sufficient repairing to make it again comfortable. A new bathroom is to be installed, and the halls and rooms are being repainted and whitewashed.”

During the 1922 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the Washington College Charter was amended, expanding the Board to twenty-five members, twelve to be appointed by the governor. Governor Albert C. Ritchie appointed Hodson. At the time of his death in 1928, Hodson was chairman of the Board’s Finance Committee.

Hodson’s gifts to the College were numerous and grew in size as his relationship with the school intensified. In 1927 he gave the \$5,800 required for the College to purchase the Schaubert property—a house and the northern-most triangle of land on the campus—and sent \$500 so the school could buy science equipment. He even wrote a check for \$100 so then-College President

Paul E. Titsworth could attend the Association of American Colleges meeting in Chicago.

The Schuber property was renovated and converted into a dormitory for women. It was called Hodson Cottage and allowed the school to increase the number of female boarders. The building was later used as a fraternity house and a men's dormitory. It was eventually torn down to make way for a new dorm.

Hodson's affection for the College sometimes was so intense that he jeopardized his own physical well-being, as related in an anecdote told by Gould:

On one occasion Colonel Hodson invited me to visit him in Atlantic City to talk over the affairs of the College. When I arrived he was already out on the beach and had left word for me to join him. We journeyed up and down that shore all morning in the broiling sun. I knew I was getting badly burned but thought gaining the Colonel's interest was worth any discomfort that might follow. After lunch, to my astonishment, he immediately said: "Let's get back onto the beach." With the sun in the west I was able to keep somewhat shaded by the boardwalk, but he took it straight. On leaving that night I stopped at the first drug store and bought all the sunburn lotion they could suggest, and practically bathed myself in it at the hotel. Soon I had a telephone call from Mrs. Hodson asking if I was all right. I assured her that I was sunburned but all right. She then told me the Colonel was in bed. I expressed surprise that one living there and accustomed to the sun should have gotten burned so badly. She replied that he had never been accustomed to go on the beach but that the doctor had ordered him to do so and that was his first day at the job! I saw him in bed the next morning, but I was able to go home.

Colonel Hodson was a financial and educational visionary. He understood that neither business nor our nation could prosper without educated people. We at Beneficial remain committed to his vision and to the long tradition of support for Washington College.

Finn M. W. Caspersen, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Beneficial Corporation, in the Washington College Annual Report, 1996-1997.

1985

MARCH 24 • RICK SOWELL SHOOTS GAME-WINNING SCORE AS SHOREMEN BEAT HOBART 8-7 IN LACROSSE ON MUDDY KIBLER FIELD.

MAY 19 • GRADUATES AT COMMENCEMENT INCLUDE THE COLLEGE'S FIRST BUSINESS MAJORS.

SEPTEMBER 19 • TEN YEARS AFTER HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE COLLEGE, FORMER ASTRONAUT MICHAEL COLLINS RETURNS TO DISCUSS "STAR WARS" (STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE) POLICY WITH STUDENTS.

OCTOBER 1 • AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS, SOMERSET HOUSE DORMS ARE RENAMED AND DEDICATED THE THOMAS W. CULLEN DORMITORY.

OCTOBER 11 • TRUSTEES LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE DRIVE TO RAISE \$26 MILLION.

NOVEMBER 8 • A SENIOR IS INJURED WHEN SHE ATTEMPTS TO CROSS WASHINGTON AVE. IN THE CROSSWALK AND IS STRUCK BY A CAR; STUDENTS DEMAND MORE VISIBLE STREET SIGNS AND A STOP LIGHT.



*As chairman of The Hodson Trust since 1976,
Finn M. W. Caspersen directs its philanthropic mission
in support of higher education.*

In the eight decades that have followed Colonel Hodson's first encounter with President Gould, The Hodson Trust has remained first and foremost among the foundation and corporate supporters of Washington College. The Trust supported building projects, academic programs, scholarships, and the rowing program. During the past three years alone, The Trust has provided \$2.6 million annually for endowed and annual support of scholarships, fulfilling a priority need of the institution and funding scholarships for approximately seventy-five students. In 1999, The Trust authorized the College to use its grants as a challenge to raise endowment funds in support of scholarships or faculty positions. Among the Campaign goals, the College intends to create five endowed chairs and ten named professorships. The Campaign also seeks to raise \$22 million in support of financial aid, particularly its Washington Scholars program and other named scholarships. The Hodson Challenge is matching gifts up to \$10 million.

1986

JULY 1 • THE BUSINESS OFFICE IN BUNTING HALL SWITCHES FROM MANUAL BOOKKEEPING TO IBM COMPUTER SYSTEM.

JULY 29 • COLLEGE BENEFACITOR EUGENE B. CASEY DIES AT AGE 82.

OCTOBER 17 • ANTIQUE PRESS ROOM IN REAR OF O'NEILL LITERARY HOUSE DEDICATED.

1987

FEBRUARY 9 • MANAGEMENT OF THE CAMPUS COFFEE HOUSE ANNOUNCES NO ALCOHOL WILL BE SOLD FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD DUE TO ALCOHOL-RELATED ACTS OF VANDALISM BY STUDENTS.

FEBRUARY 19 • BOOKSTORE MASCOT GEORGE THE CAT TRIPS ALARM SYSTEM, WAKING MANY STUDENTS AT 1:30 IN THE MORNING.

FEBRUARY 20 • COACH ED ATHEY '47, WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS FOR 38 YEARS, ANNOUNCES HE WILL RETIRE AT END OF ACADEMIC YEAR.

FEBRUARY 21 • RENOVATED BUNTING HALL IS REDEDICATED; GROUND BROKEN FOR ALONZO G. DECKER JR. SCIENCE CENTER.

Hiram S. Brown is Formidable Board Chairman

By Phillip J. Wingate '33

Dr. Wingate, a chemist and former College trustee, was a vice president with the DuPont Company.

"I HATED STAUNTON BROWN'S GUTS," Judge Goldsborough said, "and I'll tell you why. He was a year behind me at the College, but he got elected to all the students' offices which I tried for and didn't get, he got better grades than I did, and he always brought the prettiest girls in Chestertown to the College dances. And, finally, he always had more money than I did."

The man doing the talking was Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, and the man he was talking about was chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College, Colonel Hiram Staunton Brown, who was seated right beside me at an alumni breakfast in Hodson Hall in 1949. Although the Judge kept on calling him Staunton Brown, he was known around Chestertown as Colonel Hiram S. Brown. I first saw him standing outside Middle Hall in 1930 wearing a blue naval jacket with striped white pants and looking a lot like an early picture of Winston Churchill or Benito Mussolini.

I was introduced to Colonel Brown by College President Dr. Paul E. Titsworth that day in 1930, but I was too much in awe of the Colonel to carry on a conversation with him. He was the second Board member I had met, but I did not know at the time that the first, Colonel Albanas Phillips, was a member of the Board. To me, at age eleven, Colonel Phillips was just a man bringing two

black ducks to my father. Colonel Brown in 1930 was a glamorous and awesome figure on the Washington College campus for several reasons. He had been a New York banker and businessman who was reported to be a multimillionaire, but most importantly he was president of the RKO Movie Corporation and therefore a friend, associate, or boss of some of the most glamorous stars of Hollywood and the New York stage. I did not then know that he was also a close friend and supporter of the man soon to be elected president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But the Colonel Brown of 1949 was not all awesome, even though he still had that jutting jaw. He was in a jovial mood as he listened to Judge Goldsborough and laughed frequently while the judge pictured him as an obnoxious over-achiever in his College days. There obviously was some truth to what the Judge said that day because Hiram Brown graduated from Washington College, *magna cum laude*, at age seventeen, and quickly moved on to a successful career in banking and business in New York City. During World War I he was chief of the Finance Division of the newly created Air Corps, and in 1924 was elected president of the United States Leather Company. He held that position until 1929 when he became president of the Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation, which later became the movie company RKO. During all this time Hiram Brown never lost interest in Chestertown or Washington College, and in 1922 became chairman of the Board, a position he held for the next twenty-eight years, longer by far than any other board chairman in the history of the College.

If Colonel Brown had an obnoxious side to his personality, as Judge Goldsborough jokingly indicated, he did not show it that day in 1949. He seemed eager to talk with me and answered all my questions about his relationship with Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor, explaining in some detail why both Roosevelts had visited Washington College to receive honorary degrees.

"Roosevelt owed me something for supporting him when he first ran for governor of New York and later for president of the United States," he said, "so, when I invited him to visit the College, he accepted the invitation."

When I asked him if he had also arranged to have President Truman come to Chestertown for an honorary degree, he said he had not. "Truman did not owe me anything," he said, "but he did owe Judge Goldsborough for smacking John L. Lewis, when Lewis and his mine workers union tried to embarrass Truman after he succeeded Roosevelt."

I told Colonel Brown that I had been in the audience in 1933 when President Roosevelt received his honorary degree and had reached out to touch the sleeve of his coat when he walked by on the arm of his military escort.

"You were lucky," he replied, "that some Secret Service man didn't break your arm when you reached out to touch Roosevelt's coat, but maybe you looked too young and harmless to worry them."



President of the Board of Visitors and Governors for 28 years, Hiram S. Brown ruled in the style of a benevolent dictator.

1987

MARCH 26 • AUTHOR TONI MORRISON JOINS COLLOQUIUM ON BLACK WOMEN IN AMERICA.

APRIL 7 • DR. IVAR GIAEVER, WHO WAS AWARDED A NOBEL PRIZE IN 1973, TALKS WITH STUDENTS ABOUT HIS WORK IN BIOPHYSICS.

MAY 17 • FORMER DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE EDMUND MUSKIE DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.

1988

APRIL • GIBSON AVENUE IS CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC AS WORK BEGINS ON CONSTRUCTION OF CASEY ACADEMIC CENTER.

1989

SEPTEMBER 5 • STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEET WITH ACADEMIC SEARCH AND CONSULTATION SERVICE TO BEGIN SEARCH FOR A SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT CATER, WHO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT.

SEPTEMBER 27 • MUSIC DEPARTMENT SPONSORS ITS FIRST BACH'S LUNCH.

NOVEMBER 12 • FORTY COLLEGE STUDENTS JOIN THOUSANDS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR AN ABORTION-RIGHTS RALLY.

We also talked about the size of the crowd which came to Chestertown to see FDR, and Colonel Brown said it was by far the biggest crowd ever to assemble in the town.

"There was just one problem," he said. "With that crowd of 15,000 people in a town with a normal population of 3,000, all assembled on a campus with enough rest rooms to take care of about five hundred people, it is no wonder that the crowd got out of there in a hurry as soon as President Roosevelt left the podium in front of William Smith Hall and went back to his automobile."

I learned a lot about Hiram S. Brown that day but I also learned a lot about him from two others, Frederick "Dutch" Dumschott, former Washington College athlete, coach, history professor, business manager, and vice-president of the College, whose sixty-three years at the school exceeded even Colonel Brown's fifty-six years of service, and from Max Gordon, New York's fabulous producer of plays, who once had four hit shows on Broadway at the same time.

Dumschott gave me a long lecture on Colonel Brown shortly after I was elected chairman of the Board. "You can't expect to manage the Board and the College the way Colonel Brown did," Dutch told me, "because those days are gone forever. We used to call him the last emperor because he operated like an absolute monarch, and sometimes told the Board and the faculty what he was going to do after he had done it."

Dumschott said that Colonel Brown had worked closely with Dr. Paul Titsworth in convincing Colonel Clarence Hodson that the College was worthy of Hodson's support, and that The Hodson Trust had done more for the College than any other group or person since George Washington agreed to give it his name. "But he always wanted to do it his way, and most of the time he did just that. He hired three presidents of the College and their tenure varied from two days to twenty years. Dan Gibson was the man who lasted twenty years and the Colonel was very fond of him, but you won't find the name of the man who lasted only two days anywhere in the records of the College."

Dutch told me that the nameless president was a military man, a retired brigadier general whom Colonel Brown, acting as a committee of one, had chosen to become president after Gilbert Wilcox Mead died in 1949. "Colonel Brown sent the brigadier general a letter notifying him of his appointment, and the general, perhaps acting under the assumption that a general is entitled to tell a mere colonel how and what to do, sent a long letter to Colonel Brown giving him a list of the powers the new president expected to have. Colonel Brown read this letter just once and promptly sent a telegram to the general telling him he was fired. The whole exchange took place in two days."

This account of the two-day president came back to my mind when I read Max Gordon's book, which told how he, too, had tangled with the last emperor and had lost. This was when Brown was president of the Radio-Keith-Orpheum

Corporation and Gordon was manager of the traveling vaudeville groups which used to entertain audiences across the country from Cincinnati to Boston, back in the days before talking movies drove vaudeville into oblivion.

Gordon called his book *Max Gordon Presents* and in it he told how the silent movies of the 1920s and earlier were very much subordinate to the singers, dancers, acrobats, and comedians of vaudeville. The Keith-Orpheum string of theaters was perhaps the most prestigious one of these circuits in the East. But things changed when radio began to be a big factor in the nation's entertainment, and David Sarnoff, a vice-president of the original Radio Corporation of America, then known as RCA, announced the formation of a new corporation to be called Radio-Keith-Orpheum, or RKO.

It then quickly became a major factor in Hollywood when it also began to make talking movies. David Sarnoff wanted a businessman to be head of this new company and he chose Hiram Brown instead of Max Gordon, who had been director of the traveling vaudeville groups, and thought he knew more about the entertainment business than the president of a leather company. And he probably did know more, although Hiram Brown had been a steady customer of Broadway musical shows for many years and personally knew such stars of Broadway as Will Rogers and W.C. Fields.

But regardless of who knew more about the theater, Max Gordon did not like reporting to Hiram Brown and vigorously told Sarnoff and others in the RKO organization that he objected. These objections got back to Colonel Brown and when Gordon returned from a tour of the RKO circuit, shortly after Brown became president of RKO, found his office filled with "a barrel of sawdust" and some brooms. "I knew that my time had run out," he wrote. So Brown and Gordon parted, but both of them went on to become success stories—Gordon with his Broadway hits and Hiram Brown at RKO where he brought together the most famous dance team in the history of theater.

After listening to Goldsborough say that Staunton Brown, as the Judge called him, had never lost his eye for pretty girls, I asked Colonel Brown who was the prettiest girl he had known in show business. He answered: "Ginger Rogers, but she was not just pretty. She was a marvelous dancer and a far better actress than most people who watched her dance with Fred Astaire ever realized."

When I then asked him if it was true that he was responsible for the formation of the Astaire-Rogers dance team, he said he was. "When I became president of RKO early in 1929," he said, "it was just about the starting time for talking movies. But before that they were all silent and a movie star just needed to be able to ride a horse like Tom Mix did, jump around like Douglas Fairbanks did, or flare his nostrils like Rudolph Valentino, but, when the movies started to talk, they needed people who knew how to speak. So Hollywood turned to Broadway for real actors and actresses. When I first went to Hollywood, I found

1990

JANUARY 22 •

CHESTERTOWN MAYOR
ELMER HORSEY
ANNOUNCES THAT TOWN
AND COLLEGE HAVE
AGREED TO REMOVE
CAMPUS WATER TOWER.

FEBRUARY 17 •

HISTORIAN AND
EDUCATOR JOHN HOPE
FRANKLIN ADDRESSES
GATHERING AT SPRING
CONVOCATION.

APRIL 7 • CONSTANCE
STUART LARRABEE ARTS
CENTER IS DEDICATED.

APRIL 12 • WORKERS
DISMANTLE 80-FOOT-
HIGH CHESTERTOWN
WATER TOWER, WHICH
WAS A CAMPUS
LANDMARK SINCE 1915.

OCTOBER 6 • CHARLES
H. TROUT IS
INAUGURATED 24TH
COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

1991

FEBRUARY 22 • COLLEGE
SENIOR DONNA WHITE
IS NAMED IN USA TODAY
POD OF COUNTRY'S TOP
COLLEGE STUDENTS.

APRIL 27 • THE EUGENE
B. CASEY ACADEMIC
CENTER, WHICH OPENED
IN JANUARY AND IS
NAMED FOR THE LATE
COLLEGE BENEFACTOR
EUGENE CASEY, IS
FORMALLY DEDICATED.

they had what I called a list of scouting reports. Ginger Rogers was so little known in Hollywood then that she wasn't even on the list, and Fred Astaire had been summed up as a 'skinny balding actor who can dance a little.' That was like saying Shakespeare could write a little or Babe Ruth could play a little baseball. I knew better than Hollywood just how good Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire could be because I had seen Astaire in several Broadway musicals and Miss Rogers in one called 'Girl Crazy,' which showed she was a marvelous actress as well as the most graceful girl dancer I had ever seen. So I signed them both to RKO contracts and finally persuaded the Hollywood boys to give them a part in a movie called 'Flying Down to Rio.' It was supposed to star Gene Raymond and Dolores Del Rio, but Astaire and Rogers stole this show, and after that they were box office magic in five or six movies which saved RKO from bankruptcy during the depression years of the 1930s."

Sophie Kerr Gives College Lasting Literary Fame

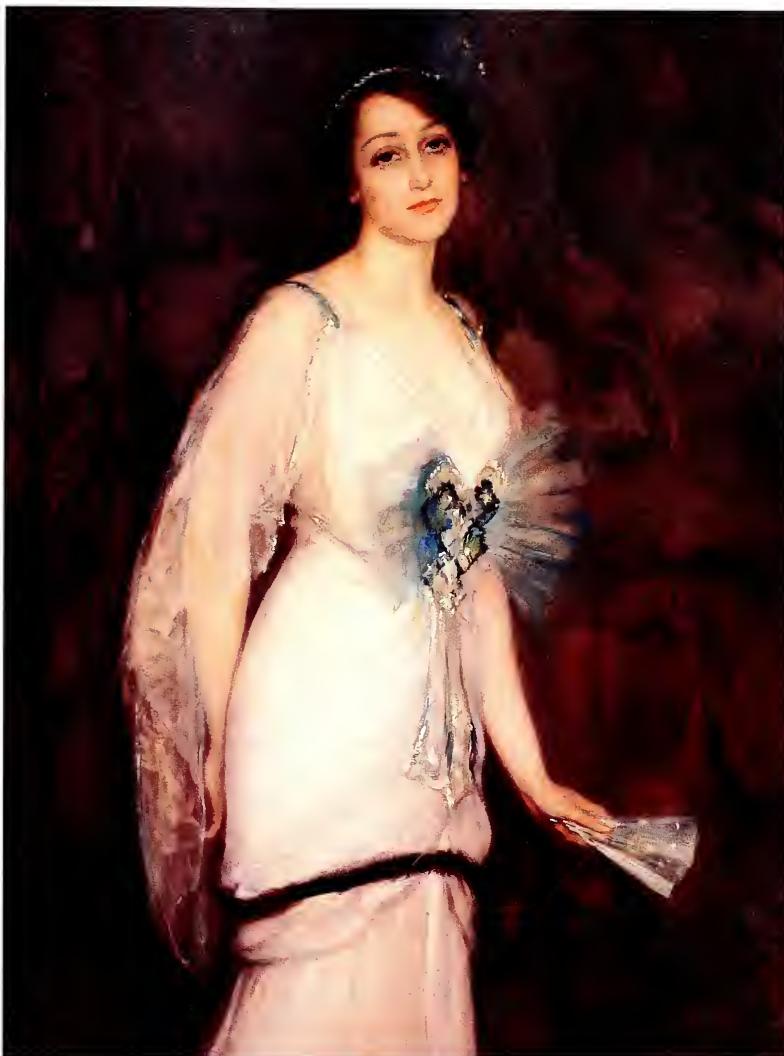
By William L. Thompson '70

DESPITE HER IMPRESSIVE CREATIVITY—she saw twenty-three novels, hundreds of short stories, and a cookbook published during her lifetime—nothing author Sophie Kerr ever wrote has had the impact on lovers of literature as a pair of dry-as-talcum paragraphs buried deep within her last will and testament.

As anyone familiar with Washington College knows by now, the Eastern Shore native and New York City keeper of cats who died in 1965 shy of her eighty-fifth birthday designated the school a residuary beneficiary with a half-million-dollar trust fund. What caught College administrators momentarily dumbfounded a year later when they learned details of the bequest was Kerr's special stipulation that half the annual earnings from her estate be handed over to a graduating senior who demonstrates promising writerly instincts.

That part of the will was outlined briskly in a ninety-one-word paragraph of legalese setting the terms of the Sophie Kerr Prize, soon to be recognized as the richest undergraduate cash award in the world. The late Dr. Nicholas Newlin, who was then chairman of the English Department, noted the enormity of the task he and his senior faculty colleagues faced in choosing the first recipient of Kerr's unusual largess. It was, he said, "a heavy, even alarming responsibility."

Less known but arguably having a greater effect on more people's lives is the second condition Kerr placed on her bequest. Overshadowed by the annual



Sophie Kerr, born in Denton, Maryland, in 1880, made her fortune in New York as a fiction writer. Independent and ambitious, she worked as managing editor of the Women's Home Companion and turned out a series of novels geared to a reading public that knew her from her short stories. She died in 1965.

spring hoopla given the Prize is what the writer-turned-benefactress wanted to be called the Gift—the other half of the income generated by her endowment. Just as dry and twice as long as its counterpart, this section of the will sets aside a like sum of money to be spent at the discretion of the Kerr Committee—the College president and the English faculty—on student scholarships, library books, literary publications, and visiting writers and scholars.

Since its inception, the Gift has made possible a parade of visiting authors, performers, and scholars who otherwise might never have set foot on a small campus miles from the traditional literary circuit. Some of these individuals were famous by the time they arrived at the College. Some were ahead of their game and soon would attain literary stardom, winning Pulitzers and Nobels and writing best sellers. Some were shy, even phlegmatic. A few were boisterous and bent on challenging the students' own proclivities for raising hell. Most were gentle and warmly receptive to young writers who yearned for and got face-to-face encounters with the literati in the classroom and, later, in the campus literary house.

All this did not happen overnight and, and in fact, it had beginnings on several fronts.

Almost immediately, school officials set out to comply with Kerr's wish that scholarships be set up in her name. The English department awards three incoming freshmen each with \$1,000. A recipient can receive the aid for four consecutive years, meaning that each year the Kerr Committee sets aside \$12,000 for financial assistance. For the record, the first four students to receive Kerr scholarships were Susan Arnold, Bill Dunphy, Reed Hessler, and Susan Marie Wilson.

While 1968 found College President Daniel Z. Gibson and school administrators cautiously pondering the consequences of Kerr's bequest and its immedi-

*Dr. Gibson invited Sophie Kerr back to the College in 1951
to speak to the Women's Literary League, and he and Helen Gibson
entertained her at Hynson-Ringgold House. The Gibsons used to show
Miss Kerr some of the gracious living which she used to write about.
Also, Helen and Dan Gibson were literary-minded and
could talk literature with her easily.*

Howard Corddry '08, longtime College trustee, explaining one reason why Sophie Kerr included Washington College in her will.



The Sophie Kerr Room in Miller Library holds a collection of her books and personal items, including several cat figurines.

ate monetary value—school officials determined the first Prize to be \$5,000, then \$7,500 and ultimately \$9,000—at least one small group on campus saw no need to curb its optimism. Students who controlled the literary magazine *Miscellany* predicted the Kerr endowment would help attract a higher caliber of undergraduate writers. The long-term benefits, they believed, were obvious.

With the initiation of the senior literary prize awarded annually by the Sophie Kerr Committee, one student writer told the campus newspaper, “*Miscellany* could within a few years become one of the finest college literary publications in the country.”

By the fall of 1970, the Sophie Kerr Committee had awarded three of its prizes to graduating seniors, had given out a handful of scholarships, and was quickly becoming the major source of funding for student literary publications.

Miscellany ceased to exist and was succeeded by other publications, including the *Washington College Review* and a flurry of poetry broadsides which came out more frequently and were favored by many of the forty-seven students who had

1991

AUGUST 7 • THE 63-YEAR-OLD WASHINGTON

ELM, A CAMPUS
LANDMARK AND
DESCENDANT OF THE
TREE UNDER WHICH
GEN. GEORGE
WASHINGTON TOOK
COMMAND OF THE
AMERICAN FORCES ON
JULY 3, 1775, IN
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., IS
CUT DOWN AFTER IT
SUCCUMBS TO DUTCH
ELM DISEASE.

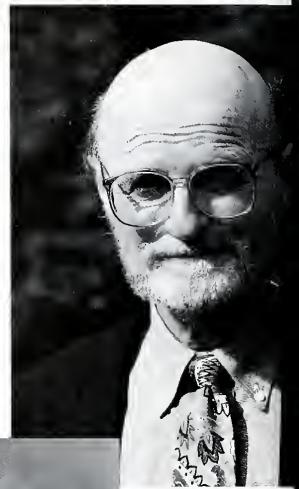
SEPTEMBER 20 •
PRESIDENT TROUT TELLS
STUDENTS THAT
COLLEGE FINANCIAL
TROUBLES ARE TIED TO
ECONOMIC ILLS OF THE
COUNTRY.

OCTOBER 21 • STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION BAN ON
DINING HALL SMOKING
TAKES EFFECT.

1992

JULY 15 •
PHILANTHROPIST LELIA
HODSON HYNSON, THE
DAUGHTER OF SARA
PAYNE AND COL.
CLARENCE HODSON
AND FOR WHOM THE
HYNSON PAVILION IN
WILMER PARK IS
NAMED, DIES AT AGE 93
AT HER HOME IN
SCARSDALE, NY

SEPTEMBER 4 •
STUDENTS LEARN THAT,
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
COLLEGE HISTORY,
DORMS WILL BE
TECHNOLOGICALLY
UPGRADED TO ALLOW
TELEPHONES IN
INDIVIDUAL ROOMS.



Washington College has hosted dozens of important writers over the years. Among them were (clockwise from top): Toni Morrison, who read from her unpublished novel, *Beloved*, in 1987; Alex Haley, who in 1968 gave a talk on his research that would lead to the publication of *Roots*; novelist John Barth, a Senior Fellow at Washington College who wrote a memorable essay "On Browsing" to commemorate the 250,000th volume installed in Miller Library; poet Howard Nemerov, who met with student writers and gave readings; William Styron, who during his 1988 visit discussed his historical novel, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, with an American history class; novelist John Dos Passos, who in 1966 read from his book *USA*, and poet Ruth Stone, who visited in 1998 as part of a *Living Writers* course.



helped form the College Writers Union. The group, whose size marked the largest creative writing organization ever assembled at the school, was given a start-up grant of \$1,750 by the Sophie Kerr Committee and another \$400 by the Student Government Association.

Continuing to follow Kerr's wishes, the English Department also began dedicating a share of the estate earnings for book purchases and periodical subscriptions. In the mid-1980s, the department set aside \$10,500 a year—about fifteen percent of the library's entire budget for new books—to buy titles recommended by its faculty.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, interest in literary exercises had begun to spread across the campus. Faculty members offered to help budding writers and, in a demonstration of how unpatronizingly candid teachers could be, one instructor's appraisal of student work published in the literary magazine ended on this critical note: "Basically, I mean that those who contributed... are not yet finished poets and yet they are more concerned with self-expression than with study..."

At Washington College, even "not yet finished poets" find reward. Two of the student writers included in the critique went on to win the Sophie Kerr Prize, an experience dramatically in contrast with the lives of many accomplished authors who visit the campus courtesy of Sophie Kerr.

Take Joseph Brodsky, for example. Brodsky found refuge in the United States in 1972 after he served eighteen months of a five-year prison term in the frozen tundra of his native Soviet Union. His crime? Writing poetry without academic qualifications.

In numerous novels and magazine stories, Sophie Kerr has continued to display what one reviewer calls "the expert touch in feminine fare." Her work is slight—mainly romances tailored to the patterns of a women's magazine fiction. But it contains a perfect combination of the necessary elements—love, suspense, atmosphere, humor; and it has won her a large and devoted audience.

Twentieth Century Authors, 1955

Brodsky, who died of a heart attack in 1996 at age fifty-five, found a more appreciative audience in the United States, and his international stature as a poet was recognized in 1987 when he was awarded a Nobel Prize in literature. But, like many writers before and after him, his path to fame brought him to rural Chestertown. A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered inside the College's Norman James Theatre to hear the man read, in his native tongue and unmistakable booming voice, many of the poems that soon would make him a cult figure.

The Sophie Kerr Lecture Series began in the spring of 1969 on a decidedly scholarly note with the appearance of Frank Kermode, then the Winterstone Professor of English at the University of Bristol. Kermode, whose books and critical essays would later earn him chairs at four English universities and a knighthood, titled his evening lecture in Hynson Lounge, "How Art Survives." Before leaving, he gave would-be writers in the crowd a bit of advice: "Redundancy," he said, "is the sin of novelists."

Kermode was followed in the fall by Polish drama critic Jan Kott, a respected academic whose book, *Shakespeare, Our Contemporary*, caught the attention of scholars trying to make the playwright's works meaningful to a generation of English students demanding so-called relevancy in their curriculum.

National Book Award winner and Library of Congress Poet-in-Residence William Stafford arrived in the fall of 1970, speaking to a large audience and then spending twenty-minute sessions with individual student writers. It marked the beginning of a successful practice. English teacher and then-Literary House Director Robert Day said his goal was to coax guest writers away from the lectern and into the throng of students who turn out to see them.

Katherine Anne Porter's stay at the College proved that writers are greater than the sum of their publications. She talked shop with the students, who found the eighty-two-year-old novelist and short-story author to be genuine and charming. She confided that the emerald rings she wore were purchased with the money she had been paid a decade ago for movie rights to her well-known novel *Ship of Fools*.

"A friend asked me," she said, "if, at age seventy-two, there wasn't something more I needed than emeralds. I told her I'd needed those emeralds since the day I was born. Holes in my shoes don't matter if I have emeralds."

1992

SEPTEMBER 11 •
COLLEGE PRESIDENT
CHARLES H. TROUT AND
BOARD MEMBERS
DISCUSS EXPANDING THE
CURRENT STUDENT
ENROLLMENT OF 923 TO
1,200 OVER A 5-TO-8-
YEAR PERIOD.

OCTOBER 3 • STATUE OF
WILLIAM BECK "SWISH"
NICHOLSON '36, WHO
PLAYED BASEBALL WITH
THE PHILADELPHIA
ATHLETICS AND THE
CHICAGO CUBS,
UNVEILED ON CROSS
STREET IN
CHESTERTOWN.

OCTOBER 31 • MILLER
LIBRARY CELEBRATES
SHELVING OF 200,000TH
VOLUME WITH SPEECH
BY NOVELIST AND
EASTERN SHORE NATIVE
JOHN BARTH.

NOVEMBER 15 •
CAMPUS SECURITY
INVESTIGATE RASH OF
SMALL FIRES SET AT
LITERARY HOUSE;
ACCESS TO BUILDING IS
RESTRICTED TO PERIOD
BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND
MIDNIGHT.

1993

FEBRUARY 16 • COLLEGE
BUDGETARY PROBLEMS
COME TO THE FORE
WHEN STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION MEETS
WITH PRESIDENT TROUT
TO DISCUSS
ALTERATIONS TO THE
POPULAR WASHINGTON
BIRTHDAY BALL.



Louis L. Goldstein served on the Board of Visitors and Governors from 1957 until his death on July 3, 1998, and was Chairman of the Board for eighteen years. The College's newest academic building is named for him.

Louis L. Goldstein was “Mr. Washington College”

“**L**IKE BLUE CRABS and the Chesapeake Bay, Louis Goldstein’s name is practically synonymous with Maryland.” So wrote Casper R. Taylor Jr., speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, upon learning that Goldstein—Washington College Class of 1935, Board chairman since 1980, World War II veteran, and Maryland comptroller since 1958—had died on July 3, 1998, at the age of eighty-five.

The mourners who showed up at Goldstein’s funeral in his native Calvert County (Goldstein, who never relinquished his Southern Maryland patois, pronounced it “Culvert” County) numbered in the hundreds and included current and former state governors, U.S. senators, scores of other political figures, College administrators and alumni, and regular folks who knew or knew of “Louie” from his sixty years in public service.

Goldstein, who served in both houses of the Maryland General Assembly and was Senate president from 1955 to 1958, was afforded an honor unprecedented in Maryland history the day before his funeral when an honor guard placed his flag-draped casket beneath the State House dome a few feet from the old Senate chamber. That room was among Goldstein’s favorites because it was there in 1783—a year after Washington College was founded—that George Washington resigned his commission as commander of the Continental Army. More than 2,500 people filed past Goldstein’s casket.

Goldstein was born on March 14, 1913, in Prince Frederick. He graduated from Washington College in 1935 and earned a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1938. A year later he was sworn in as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. He left that legislative body in 1942 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps as a private. He served in the Asiatic and Pacific theaters and was discharged in 1946 as a first lieutenant. His hunger for public service was acute and that same year he campaigned for and was elected to the Maryland State Senate, representing Calvert County. A Democrat, Goldstein was Senate majority leader from 1951 to 1955, when he was elected Senate president. He was elected state comptroller—arguably one of the state’s most powerful positions—in 1958 and held that office until his death.

Goldstein was a delegate or an alternate to fourteen Democratic Party national conventions, and he was a member of the party’s platform and resolutions committee at the conventions of 1964, 1968, 1972, 1984, 1988 and 1992.

During his years at the College, Goldstein stood out as an affable and enthusiastic student. He sold shoes to help pay his expenses during those Depression years and, in addition to his studies, he found time to handle the business affairs of *The Elm*. “He sold more than twice as much advertising space as had ever been

1993

FEBRUARY 20 • DESPITE BUDGET CUTS OF MORE THAN \$1 MILLION, THE COLLEGE EXPECTS TO END THE FISCAL YEAR \$600,000 IN THE RED. BOARD MEMBERS LEARN; IT WILL BE THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF FISCAL PROBLEMS.

APRIL 5 • PRESIDENT EMERITUS DOUGLASS CATER RETURNS TO CAMPUS TO DELIVER SPEECH SPONSORED BY GOLDSTEIN PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

MAY 23 • PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST BOB WOODWARD, WHOSE COVERAGE OF THE WATERGATE ERA CONTRIBUTED TO THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT.

SEPTEMBER 2 • GRAND MARSHAL ERMON FOSTER LEADS HIS 128TH AND FINAL ACADEMIC PROCESSION AT FALL CONVOCATION; HE IS PRESENTED WITH A REPLICA OF THE COLLEGE MACE CARVED BY FRANK RHODES ‘83 FROM WOOD OF THE WASHINGTON ELM.

OCTOBER 25 • EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD LEARN THAT THE CURRENT SCHOOL BUDGET IS EXPERIENCING A DEFICIT OF \$52,000.



Eugene B. Casey is remembered for his strong intellect and work ethic, his compassion for those less fortunate, and his generous support of the College's educational mission.

sold before and the paper ended the first year with a surplus for the first time in history," recalled classmate Phillip J. Wingate. Goldstein, who had started out as a chemistry major before switching his interests to law and politics, was credited with introducing the game of horseshoes to campus.

Goldstein joined the College Board of Visitors and Governors in 1957. He quickly became one of the College's most visible ambassadors and it was for his roles as trustee, Board chairman, benefactor, and fiscal watchdog that Goldstein achieved a status in College history reserved for such heavyweights as Ezekiel F. Chambers, Judge James A. Pearce, and Colonel Hiram S. Brown.

During the term of College President Douglass Cater, Goldstein lent his name and cachet to a fundraiser that featured former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and endowed the College's Louis L. Goldstein Program in Public Policy. Goldstein was able to solicit significant amounts of financial aid for the College, and he personally committed more than one million dollars of his own to the school.

Caseys Provide Impetus for "Higher Orbit"

NO INDIVIDUAL DONORS have done as much for Washington College as have Betty Brown Casey, a 1947 alumna and trustee emeritus who took on a leadership role in the Campaign for Excellence, and her late husband, Eugene B. Casey, president of Casey Engineering. Since Mr. Casey's initial pledge in 1982 of \$5 million and his promise to build a new campus facility the students wanted, Mrs. Casey has more than tripled that amount and in the process changed the very face of Washington College, while building endowment for scholarships and facility maintenance.

The students voted overwhelmingly for an indoor swimming pool, which was duly built and dedicated in 1984, but the Caseys set their sights even higher. They purchased and renovated the O'Neill Literary House, a literary haven for the College's creative writing students, and built the Casey Academic Center, the magnificent campus centerpiece Mrs. Casey planned and paid for as a memorial to her late husband. Their gifts precipitated the closing of Gibson Avenue, the creation of the Cater Walk and Martha Washington Square, the building of the north gate entrance, and wholesale campus beautification. From properties and renovation funds to scholarships and academic prizes, from feasibility studies to computers and opera tickets, Mrs. Casey has provided a beneficence never before seen, nor yet matched.

President Douglass Cater called their first meeting "splendid," perhaps because the couples involved understood what was at stake. Mr. and Mrs. Cater, soliciting for the major fundraising campaign, were looking for major players to

1994

FEBRUARY 7 •

PRESIDENT TROUT PUTS
THE COLLEGE DEFICIT
AT \$965,000; FACULTY
PONDERS SALARY
REDUCTIONS.

FEBRUARY 18 • HODSON

HALL STUDENT CENTER
REDEDICATED IN
HONOR OF STUDENT
AFFAIRS DEAN
MAUREEN KELLEY
MCINTIRE.

MARCH 4 • "EMPLOYEE

MORALE IS AT AN ALL
TIME LOW," A COLLEGE
WORKER, SPEAKING OF
PROBLEMS CAUSED BY
THE DEFICIT, TELLS *THE
ELM*.

JUNE 30 • GENE HESSEY,

THE SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT FOR
MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCES, RETIRES
AFTER 24 YEARS WITH
THE COLLEGE.

AUGUST 27 • PRESIDENT

TROUT ANNOUNCES
APPOINTMENT OF DR.
JOACHIM SCHOLZ AS
ACTING DEAN AND
PROVOST FOLLOWING
THE RESIGNATION OF
DEAN GENE WUBBELS.

SEPTEMBER 3 •

PRESIDENT TROUT
ANNOUNCES HE WILL
RESIGN AS OF JUNE 1,
1995.

OCTOBER 31 •

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH
COMMITTEE, HEADED BY
ROBERT DUEMLING,
BEGINS PROCESS OF
FINDING SUCCESSOR TO
TROUT.

"An American Original" Remembered

by President Douglass Cater

Eugene Bernard Casey was an American original. His was a genius born of determination combined with those other essential ingredients for success: willingness to work, to learn, to take risks, to meet challenges, and always to stretch. His mind was open and the ideas flowed. Never satisfied with the status quo, he sought to go one step further.

Those who knew him best marveled at the sheer power of his mind—an extraordinary power to retain all that he saw and heard, read and experienced.

As one friend put it: "He had the vision and genius to invest in this small farming community and the good fortune to live to see this investment materialize into a great metropolis."

Acquiring and building has been the major part of the Casey genius. Yet he also established a private reputation for cultivating the hard habit of generosity. Here, too, he had the sharp eye and the shrewd intuition in deciding when and where to give. He donated barns and land to the National Institutes of Health at a critical stage of research and testing on the Salk Polio Vaccine. Dr. James A. Shannon, then director of NIH, has stated, "Through (Eugene Casey's) generosity, NIH was able to participate in one of the greatest public health achievements of all times."

Eugene Casey cared about people. He cherished his family and his friends. His interests and generosity were widespread. He cared about community and quietly worked to build parks and a home for homeless boys, community centers, and low-income housing.

He cared about his country and its great patriots,

especially George Washington and Patrick Henry. Like them, he served his country in war—in his case in the Navy—and in peace, in the White House.

He cared about education. His generosity and his leadership inspired Washington College to think anew about its mission and its needs. This led us to a master plan and a revitalized campus. The swimming center and the Academic Resources Center will keep Eugene Casey's name and memory alive for future generations of our students.

Eugene Casey had many careers. He was engineer, lawyer, master plumber, financier, developer, philanthropist. He was a dedicated son who worked hard to help his father save his business. He adored his mother, the beautiful Rose O'Neill. He was a loving husband to his dear wife, Betty, and a devoted father to his six children. Eleven grandchildren brought joy to his later years.

To meet Gene Casey could be an exhilarating and riveting experience. His crystal blue eyes could pierce your soul, yet twinkling all the while. He seemed to recognize the irony and the humor of the human condition and to appreciate it to the fullest. When he loved he loved totally, whether it was his family and trusted friends, or the land that he felt a part of, or the chocolate that he slipped to those like my wife Libby with whom he felt a kinship. Gene could quickly size up a person or an idea, but he usually preferred to sleep on it before expressing his opinion.

And so, our friend, adviser and good citizen, Gene Casey, is sleeping on it and we will forever feel the conclusions he reached during a rich and rewarding life. We will greatly miss you, Gene. You will be remembered.

Eugene B. Casey, 82, died July 29, 1986, in his Potowmack, Maryland, home after a long illness.



The Casey Academic Center is one of five buildings on campus that bear witness to the generosity of Eugene B. and Betty Brown Casey '47.

1995

DECEMBER 3 • DR. JOHN TOLL, CHANCELLOR EMERITUS AND PHYSICS PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, IS NAMED ACTING COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

SEPTEMBER 16 • DR. JOHN S. TOLL IS INAUGURATED COLLEGE PRESIDENT.

1996

APRIL 16 • FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GARY HART COMES TO CAMPUS AS PART OF THE HARWOOD COLLOQUY.

APRIL 18 • GEN. COLIN POWELL, FORMER ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, TALKS BEFORE 1,500 PEOPLE GATHERED INSIDE CAIN ATHLETIC CENTER. HE IS AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE DEGREE.

SEPTEMBER • A FRESHMAN CLASS OF 322 STUDENTS IS THE LARGEST IN COLLEGE HISTORY.

SEPTEMBER 5 • FALL CONVOCATION FEATURES SPEAKER RUSSELL E. TRAIN, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE FEDERATION.



With the opening of the Casey Swim Center in 1984, the College built highly competitive men's and women's swimming programs that produced six All-Americans. The pool is open to the community and local schools, and hosts the Sho'men Aquatics age-group swim program that has placed first in the Delmarva League for five successive years.

support the College's master plan. The Caseys were looking for a worthy philanthropic cause. Mrs. Casey liked the idea of supporting her *alma mater*; Gene Casey liked Doug Cater. It was what Cater liked to call a "serendipitous" match; both men were tough-minded, ambitious visionaries intent on positioning Washington College among the finest liberal arts and sciences colleges in the country, and on leaving their mark for posterity. The Caseys wanted this single gift to be significant, a gift that would propel Washington College into what Douglass Cater liked to call "a higher orbit."

"It was a bold, bold gift," Sherry Magill, former assistant to Douglass Cater, says of Eugene Casey's \$5 million pledge, "because it wasn't absolutely certain at the time that the College could achieve everything it wanted. The College had gone through one failed campaign, and people like Gene Casey want their money to go to winners. This gift did more than the dollar sums would suggest. It signified to Doug Cater and others that his vision for the College was one that others shared, that people wanted the College to be successful. Doug always talked about this gift as the impetus for so much that followed."

The Casey generosity resulted in the Eugene B. Casey Swim Center, the Eugene B. Casey Academic Resources Center, the O'Neill Literary House (named for Mr. Casey's mother), Brown Cottage (named for Betty Brown Casey), and the Nussbaum House (named for Mrs. Casey's grandmother). Brown Cottage provides housing for College guests; Nussbaum House is home to select math majors.

Mrs. Casey served on the Board for twenty years. Throughout her association with the College, Mrs. Casey has championed educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged students and leadership opportunities for women. She encouraged students in volunteer work through her suggestion of "Casey Time." She shared with them her love of the arts, particularly music, by giving them tickets to the Washington Opera. Above all, she encouraged students to fulfill their dreams and ambitions. In this spirit, she established the Raggedy Anne™ and Andy Scholarship Fund. She and her husband endowed the Eugene B. Casey Medal to recognize the most outstanding senior women for scholarship, character, leadership and campus citizenship. Mrs. Casey established for the benefit of pre-law students the Clark M. Clifford Scholarship in memory of the long-time presidential adviser who served as Secretary of Defense under Lyndon B. Johnson.

1996

OCTOBER 20 • THE COLLEGE SPONSORS ITS FIRST FALL FAMILY DAY, AN EVENT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS PARENTS DAY; ON THIS DAY, JOURNALIST AND BIOGRAPHER RICHARD BEN CRAMER DISCUSSES THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE THAT FILLS HYNSON LOUNGE.

NOVEMBER 9 • FACULTY AND STUDENTS DEDICATE DUNNING HALL'S NEW W.M. KECK NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE MACHINE.

NOVEMBER 20 • A BROKEN WATER PIPES SPILLS WATER INTO THE STUDENT COVE, CREATING AN UNPLEASANT SMELL FOR STUDENTS ON THEIR WAY TO THE THANKSGIVING FEASTS IN THE DINING HALL.

1997

JANUARY 15 • DALY HALL, THE NEW CLASS AND FACULTY OFFICE BUILDING, OPENS.

FEBRUARY 11 • COLLEGE UNVEILS ITS CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS.



Clifton M. Miller, Board chairman between 1963 and 1967, provided funds for the library that bears his name. He was chairman of the Development Committee during the Heritage Campaign.

Monuments that Matter

EARLY COLLEGE LEADERS set an important precedent when they named a new academic building after its founding president William Smith. What better way to perpetuate the memory of someone who contributed so much to education in general, and who had done so much for Washington College in particular, than to inscribe his name upon a lasting monument that will serve future generations of students? Through the years, as the College has grown in size and distinction, many donors have stepped forward to help the College meet critical facility needs—bigger libraries, modern laboratories, more classrooms, better residence halls. As the College strove to remain competitive with peer institutions, the need for efficient and attractive facilities was even more apparent. Donors responded with classroom buildings, an art studio, a fitness center, and a tennis center. Some benefactors, like George Avery Bunting, are graduates of the College who wanted to enhance the learning environment. Others, like Alonzo G. Decker Jr., are philanthropists who believe in the power of education to positively affect the world.

Bunting Library, now Bunting Hall, was the gift of Dr. George Avery Bunting, who graduated from the College in 1891 and developed Noxema skin cream in 1914. He was secretary of the Board of Visitors and Governors at the time of his death in 1959.

Another chemist, H.A.B. Dunning of Baltimore, agreed to help provide new facilities for the teaching of the sciences. At the January 1940 dedication of Dunning Hall, he recalled how that gift came about:

I became consciously interested in the College through the efforts of Dr. Robert L. Swain, in the fall of 1938. A conference between Dr. Gilbert W.

1997

FEBRUARY 22 • ARTIST

JAMES BROWNING

WYETH RECEIVES

AWARD FOR

EXCELLENCE AT

WASHINGTON'S

BIRTHDAY

CONVOCATION: HIS

FATHER, ANDREW, AND

UNCLE N.C. WYETH,

RECEIVED THE SAME

AWARD FROM THE

COLLEGE EARLIER.

CONVOCATION SPEAKER

IS ACTRESS AND

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT

FOR THE ARTS CHAIR

JANE ALEXANDER.

MARCH 4 • THE

O'NEILL LITERARY

HOUSE RECEIVES

NATIONAL ATTENTION

WITH A FEATURE

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY AN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

REPORTER.

MAY 27 • STUDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS BEGIN

FIELD SCHOOL AT

NANTICOKE RIVER SITE

OF 17TH-CENTURY

INDIAN VILLAGE.

APRIL 4 • POET GALWAY

KINNELL READS HIS

WORKS IN HYNSON

LOUNGE.

OCTOBER 9 • COLLEGE

PRESIDENT JOHN S. TOLL

JOINS 11-MEMBER PANEL

APPOINTED BY THE

GOVERNOR TO STUDY

THE PFIESTERIA

OUTBREAK THAT IS

DEADLY TO FISH IN AND

AROUND THE EASTERN

SHORE.

Alonzo G. Decker Jr. at Spring Convocation, February 22, 1986.

Mead, your president, and myself, led to a careful study of the extensive data concerning the long and impressive history of the College, its prestige and service, and, especially, its present status and well-equipped staff of educators. I decided to give serious consideration to the proposal that I make a gift which would provide much-needed scientific equipment and laboratories in which the staff could more effectively operate, for the benefit of the students coming under its jurisdiction. The result is the science building which we now view and dedicate today.

Nearly half a century later, another Baltimore executive made possible the construction of a new science center, The Alonzo G. Decker Jr. Laboratory Center, as well as many other advances that came with the 1980s Campaign for Excellence. President Douglass Cater had compelled Decker and W. James Price, a Washington College parent and an executive with Alex. Brown and Son, to join the Board and to lead the \$44 million fund drive. Under their direction, it was the first successful campaign in the history of the College since William Smith collected the requisite five thousand pounds in College start-up money, and even surpassed its original goal by more than \$15 million. The Decker Science Laboratory Center, which opened in 1988, paved the way for more hands-on learning, summer undergraduate research programs, environmental science courses, and a remarkable success rate for premedical student applications.

Remind everyone of how we prepared the microwave transistor

computer laser bases of this age—working together in

Professor Kenneth Buxton's chemistry laboratory and

Professor Coop's physics laboratory at this College more than half a

century ago. Buxton introduced physical chemistry to the College.

The instrumentalities, even beyond the instruments of physics

and chemistry, can enhance this historic role

for this third century of the College and the nation.

Dr. William O. Baker '35, retired chairman of Bell Labs, in a letter to President Douglass Cater on the occasion of the dedication of the Decker Science Laboratory Center, 1988.



Dr. H.A.B. Dunning, an Eastern Shore native who was a pharmaceutical chemist in Baltimore, provided the funds for Dunning Science Hall.

1997

OCTOBER 15 • STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION INITIATES
DIALOGUE ON CAMPUS
RACE RELATIONS.

1998

MAY 24 • SHOREMEN
OVERPOWER NAZARETH
COLLEGE 16-10 AT
RUTGERS STADIUM TO
WIN TEAM'S FIRST
DIVISION III NATIONAL
MEN'S LACROSSE
CHAMPIONSHIP.

AUGUST 30 • WILLIAM
SMITH HALL,
FOLLOWING \$3 MILLION
RENOVATIONS THAT
INCLUDE INSTALLATION
OF AN ELEVATOR, IS
REOPENED DURING
DEDICATION CEREMONY.

SEPTEMBER 2 • PETRA
FAJERSON WILCOX '91
AND HUSBAND ARE
PASSENGERS ABOARD
SWISSAIR FLIGHT 111
THAT GOES DOWN WITH
227 OTHER PASSENGERS
AND CREW OFF COAST
OF NOVA SCOTIA.

SEPTEMBER 18 •
GEORGE WASHINGTON
SCHOLAR RICHARD
NORTON SMITH SPEAKS
AT CONVOCATION,
WHICH IS OFFICIAL
START OF COLLEGE'S
YEAR-LONG TRIBUTE TO
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WASHINGTON'S DEATH.

SEPTEMBER 19 •
VIRGINIA GENT DECKER
ARBORETUM
DEDICATED OUTSIDE
DECKER BUILDING.



With the new Dunning Science Hall that opened in 1940, Washington College built upon its strong reputation for teaching in the natural sciences.

The Constance Stuart Larrabee Arts Center and the Benjamin A. Johnson Lifetime Fitness Center were also part of the Campaign for Excellence. Larrabee, a world-renowned photographer, and other Friends of the Arts provided funds for the creative transformation of the old boiler plant into a center for the visual arts. William B. Johnson '40 and his family led alumni fundraising efforts for a fitness center named after his father, a graduate of the Class of 1911. These new facilities made a positive impression on students shopping for colleges.

"Buildings help sell the College," noted Jim Price in a post-Campaign interview. "When a prospective student visits a college there are probably three things at which he or she looks. Number one is the campus, the environment. If it's grubby and rundown and you don't have the proper facilities, they're turned off right away. That's why buildings are important. The beauty of the Casey Academic Center is that the College never really had a focus or an entrance before."

If you drove by you really couldn't figure out where to begin. Now there is an entrance and a beautiful campus."

The success of the Campaign for Excellence is evident everywhere on campus. Yet it also brought about less visible improvements in areas such as academic computing, undergraduate research opportunities, and endowment for scholarships and better faculty salaries. The challenge to improve campus facilities, raise endowment, and maintain a competitive edge remains.

With funds raised through the current \$72 million Campaign for Washington's College, launched in 1996 under the chairmanship of Jack S. Griswold, William Smith Hall was renovated, a new classroom and faculty office complex was added, and a tennis facility was built. Dorothy Williams Daly '38 and her husband, Ken, provided the leadership gift for Daly Hall. Longtime friends of the late College President Dr. Joseph H. McLain '37 and his wife Ann Hollingsworth '40, the Dalys were also donors to the College's Campaign for Excellence, helping to fund the Joseph H. McLain Chair in Environmental Studies. The College's newest athletic facility, The Schottland Tennis Center, is named after Ellen Bordley Schottland '42, whose father, Carl Bordley, graduated in 1911. Considered the finest tennis facility in the Centennial Conference, the center was made possible through a major gift from her husband, Stanley, with additional support from family and friends.



Alonzo G. Decker Jr., retired chairman of the Black and Decker Corporation (left), and W. James Price, managing director emeritus of BT Alex. Brown, were co-chairmen of the \$44 million Campaign for Excellence.

Sharing His Good Name

By Kirk B. Johnson

Johnson is the grandson of the man for whom the Johnson Fitness Center is named.

There is a saying that "no great man is a good man" and it is true that many of our great leaders have not been particularly good men. I think my grandfather, Ben Johnson, was both.

He was without question a lawyer and a judge of great distinction. In 20 years of private practice, he never lost a case on appeal. When he was elected in 1934 to be Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit of Maryland, he polled the largest number of votes ever recorded. He was the first chief judge elected from Wicomico County. As chief judge he served as a member of the courts of the four counties of the lower Eastern Shore. He wrote hundreds of opinions and affected the lives and fortunes of thousands of Marylanders.

He dominated the First Circuit and privately wrote many of the opinions for his less astute judicial colleagues. The parties in those cases were lucky for that. He was clear, concise, and exquisitely logical—applying common sense and legal precedent in a way that brought trust and respect.

And he improved the process of the judicial system as well. It was he who instituted the practice of psychiatric evaluation for defendants in the First Circuit, a routine part of a fair trial today, and it was he who ended the procedure whereby children were tried like adults in open court.

By virtue of his chief judgeship he was also a member of the highest court of the state—the Court of Appeals in Annapolis. His judgments there set precedent for the entire state. He was a wonderful judge—with a great knowledge of, and sympathy for, human nature, and he always had the courage to do the right thing.

When I got my first office as a lawyer in Chicago, I hung up a picture of the Maryland Court of Appeals of the 1940s. Among the men in that picture is, of course, Benjamin Alvin Johnson. He was a striking man—with piercing eyes and what

we have come to know as the Johnson nose.

As a young lawyer I was proud of my grandfather for his achievements. Yet the real source of inspiration for me has been his personal qualities.

When a scandal arose involving the misuse of county funds, my grandfather refused to cover it up—even though friends and colleagues were involved. He took the charges to the grand jury. Convictions were returned, and he appointed honest men as their successors.

When lynching parties were rumored for some unpopular people accused of crimes, it was he who quietly got them out of town so they could be safely tried in another county.

He was told as a young politician running for the circuit court that he must formally join a church and promote his religious faith. Though he believed in God and respected all religions, he never joined. When he did go to church it was the Baptist church—often the black Baptist church—because he enjoyed the music and the people.

My grandfather was raised on a farm and when he died he owned three farms. With the exception of Washington College and one year at Baltimore Law School, he was a product of the simplest country schools. Yet he was a self-taught scholar who loved Latin and classical studies and, no doubt to the chagrin of my father and his friends, he supplemented their studies with his own classes in Latin.

My grandfather was an outdoorsman. He also loved to dance and play the fiddle with his friends. He was a man who seemed to feel threatened by no one, who could find the lesson and hope in every hardship, and apparently the fun in almost any occasion. He would host parties for the firemen after they put out the periodic fires on his roof. He had an indomitable spirit. After his second stroke he was told to have his arm amputated, but he refused and eventually recovered its full use.

He was not a rich philanthropist, nor a corporate executive, nor a Wall Street lawyer. He had few vanities except for his good name and his dogs. His name, I believe, is the right name to place before the young people of his college as they chart their destinies in the world today. **W**

1998

OCTOBER 4 • EIGHTEEN STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE 12TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 10 • STUDENTS COMMEMORATE NATIONAL COMING-OUT DAY ON CAMPUS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS.

OCTOBER 19 • AFTER A HIATUS OF ABOUT 20 YEARS, A PARADE OF FLOATS IN DOWNTOWN CHESTERTOWN IS RETURNED AS PART OF HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES.

NOVEMBER 31 • THE SHOREMEN VICTORY OVER ST. MARY'S WAS THE 350TH CAREER WIN FOR BASKETBALL COACH TOM FINNEMAN, CLASS OF 1965.

DECEMBER 3 • PRESIDENT TOLL AND THE HEADS OF THE EASTERN SHORE'S FOUR OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AGREE TO SHARE RESOURCES IN AN EXPERIMENTAL CONSORTIUM TO PROVIDE JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING.

1999

JANUARY 29 • FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND WIFE BARBARA RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES AT WINTER CONVOCATION.



Benjamin Alvin Johnson '11, shown in this 1940s vintage photo, was an influential member of the Maryland Court of Appeals.

This latest campaign seeks to raise the College's profile by taking advantage of institutional strengths, including its environmental setting, its highly regarded creative writing program, and the College's place in the nation as the first college founded in the new nation under the patronage of George Washington. The biggest campaign gift to date, with \$56 million raised by February 2000, is a \$5 million grant from the Starr Foundation to establish a Center for the Study of the American Experience. Two new centers—the Center for the Environment and Society and the Center for Writing and the Creative Process, are also being funded. Board Chairman L. Clifford Schroeder and philanthropist Ted Stanley are the two largest donors for the Center for the Environment and Society. This Campaign is distinguished by several million dollar-plus gifts from past supporters such as James Price, Alonzo Decker, and Betty Brown Casey, as well as new campaign leaders, Jay Griswold and Shery Kerr. In addition to a \$1 million grant from the Grayce B. Kerr Fund, of which she is president, Shery and her husband Breene personally pledged \$500,000 in unrestricted funds to the Campaign for Washington's College. **W**

Athletics





It All Started with a “Social Game”: Sports at Washington College

Within the liberal arts and sciences setting, intercollegiate athletics have played a valuable role in imparting life's lessons that transcend win-loss records and national titles, although Washington College athletes have enjoyed their fair share of successes. Behind the thrilling victories and the heart-breaking losses are coaches devoted to sport and students who play for the love of the game. There is nothing quite like athletic competition to forge a sense of community and to tie the bonds of friendship. Legendary coaches, professional-calibre athletes, and the aura of David and Goliath competition pervade the rich athletic tradition at Washington College.

By H. Hurtt Deringer '59

Deringer is the former editor of *The Kent News*.

Overleaf: After nearly identical sudden death overtime losses to Nazareth College in the previous two championship games, the Shoremen finally captured the NCAA Division III national crown in 1998 with a 16-10 win over Nazareth.

LESS THAN TWO YEARS after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, baseball ushered in athletics at Washington College. *The Kent News* of Saturday, April 6, 1867, tells of “a social game played between the Wissahicon Club of Washington College” and the Independents, a baseball team from Chestertown, on March 30, 1867. The account is skimpy, as marked the newspaper writing of the day. We know little of the weather, or the size of the crowd. We can believe the game was played on the front campus, just down the bank from the Hill dorms.



The 1899 College football squad relaxes on the steps of a Hill dorm.

In a contest that took four hours and fifty minutes, Washington College walloped the townies, 97-15. Samuel T. Earle pitched a complete game, hit the only home run, and scored eight runs. He was ably supported by James E. Carroll at first base, who led all scorers with sixteen runs. Shortstop J. Horton Kelley and centerfielder S. G. Hull chipped in with thirteen tallies each.

Marion deKalb Smith, age seventeen and future Maryland comptroller, scored the game. Careers as doctors beckoned Earle and Kelley, the former becoming a leading surgeon in Baltimore and the latter a beloved general practitioner in Kent. Carroll rose to be superintendent of Public Education in Delaware.

1920 Athletic Regulations

- I. No student of Washington College shall represent the College in any public athletic contest except in those contests scheduled with the consent of the Faculty, unless he shall have received special permission from the Faculty for the particular contest.
- II. No student shall represent the College in athletic contests unless he shall be at the time in good academic standing.
 - (a) A student is not in good academic standing who has during the preceding month failed in fifty percent or more of his work.
- III. No person shall be considered a bona fide student:
 - (a) Unless he shall be duly enrolled in the institution within one month after the beginning of either semester.
 - (b) Unless he is taking a minimum requirement of twelve semester hours.
- IV. No student shall represent the College in any athletic contest who has participated in intercollegiate athletics for four years or who already holds a bachelor's degree from a standard college.
 - (a) One year's playing shall be interpreted to mean playing in ten percent of the total number of games in football, basketball, and baseball.
- V. No student shall represent the College who received remuneration for athletic services to the College.
- VI. The eligibility of every player shall be decided by the Faculty in accordance with the above rules.

*Eligibility rules for Washington College students,
approved by Athletic Committee and Faculty
January 12, 1920. [W]*

Before baseball captured the imagination of a nation, students rough-housed in dorms, engaged in sporting games, hunted, fished, and swam. In 1864 the Board at Washington College had made its first conscious bow to physical education with the appropriation of fifty dollars for weights and barbells and the use of the north end of West Hall's basement for exercise. With the advent of the machine and its resulting increase in leisure time, athletics became a popular substitute for chores.

Baseball grew in popularity and the season of 1882 produced a perfect 6-0 season with defeats of Centreville, 14-4; Crumpton, 25-9; Galena, 32-3; Kent Island, 6-1; St. John's College, 11-6; and the "Stars" of Annapolis, 8-4. Catcher John Y. Todd won the Gold Medal as the College's best athlete. William L. Hopkins was the ace pitcher. Granville Catlin, Walter Pippin, Richard Dunn Hynson, and Samuel Windsor rounded out the infield. Richard Ricards and W. D. Straughn flanked Harry Parr in center field.

Football made its appearance on Saturday, November 24, 1888, in a not-so-happy experience, as reported by *The Kent News*:

The St. John's College (Annapolis) team came over by the steamer *Corsica* last Saturday morning and beat our Washington College boys in a game of foot-ball. The game lasted about an hour and a half and was witnessed by quite a number of persons. The St. John's boys were in full practice while ours had never played together; the result therefore is not surprising.

The following was the home team: Rush Line - H. W. Beck, Chas. Twilley, John Todd, Fred Porter, Geo. Perkins, Wm. B. Usilton, Jr., L. Goldsborough. Quarter Back - C. W. Perkins. Halfbacks - F. W. Gerker, L. W. Wickes. Full Back - J. S. W. Jones.

From what we have heard of the game one of the most desirable institutions to have on hand when the "sport" is indulged in is a well-equipped hospital. Broken arms, legs, or necks may reasonably be expected in every well contested game! Several "casualties" occurred here, none however was serious.

This "foot-ball" game seems quite popular in some sections and is claimed by some here to be destined to supersede baseball.

The final score: St. John's 116, Washington College 0. The "Johnnies" had been playing football for three years and were coached by Dr. James W. Cain, later president of Washington College and an ardent supporter of football. Laird Goldsborough went on to become a federal judge and Lewin Wickes a circuit judge. J. S. W. Jones, Class of 1889, became dean of the College.

William B. Usilton III, writing later about the game in a 1935 *Kent News* article, added:

It is interesting to mention the fact that many of the players on the team compiled by Dean Jones were not College students. Town 'sports' like Uncle Horace Beck, Charlie Twilley, and Frank Gerker joined the squad to complete the eleven players necessary.

Dean Jones has remarked, in discussing this game—which he does occasionally—that he chose the fullback position because he understood it was the farthest away from the line of scrimmage.

Football at Washington College, following this harrowing experience with St. John's in 1888, suffered a severe lapse and it was not until a year later, in 1889, that the boys dared mention the pastime. On October 12, 1889, an Athletic Association was formed and a team organized. A game was scheduled with Still Pond, to be played at the Worton

Fair; but the boys from up the county, probably moved by a premonition that the College lads wanted salve for the St. John's defeat, backed down.

But, finally, the Dover Academy team from Delaware was scheduled and the game was played on November 28, 1889. The Delaware lads in their letter-arranging for the contest, insisted that only players connected with the College be allowed to compete. This didn't bar members of the faculty and we find E. J. Clarke (now known as "Chirps" of Pocomoke City) listed among the players. George (Noxzema) Bunting played in the line, as did Conservation Commissioner Robert F. Duer and the late Judge Lewin W. Wickes. Postmaster William B. Usilton Jr. succeeded to the full back position, Dean Jones having relinquished that safe job for a safer one on the sidelines.

Washington College in this game tasted the fruits of their first victory on the gridiron, defeating the Dover Academy 18 to 0.

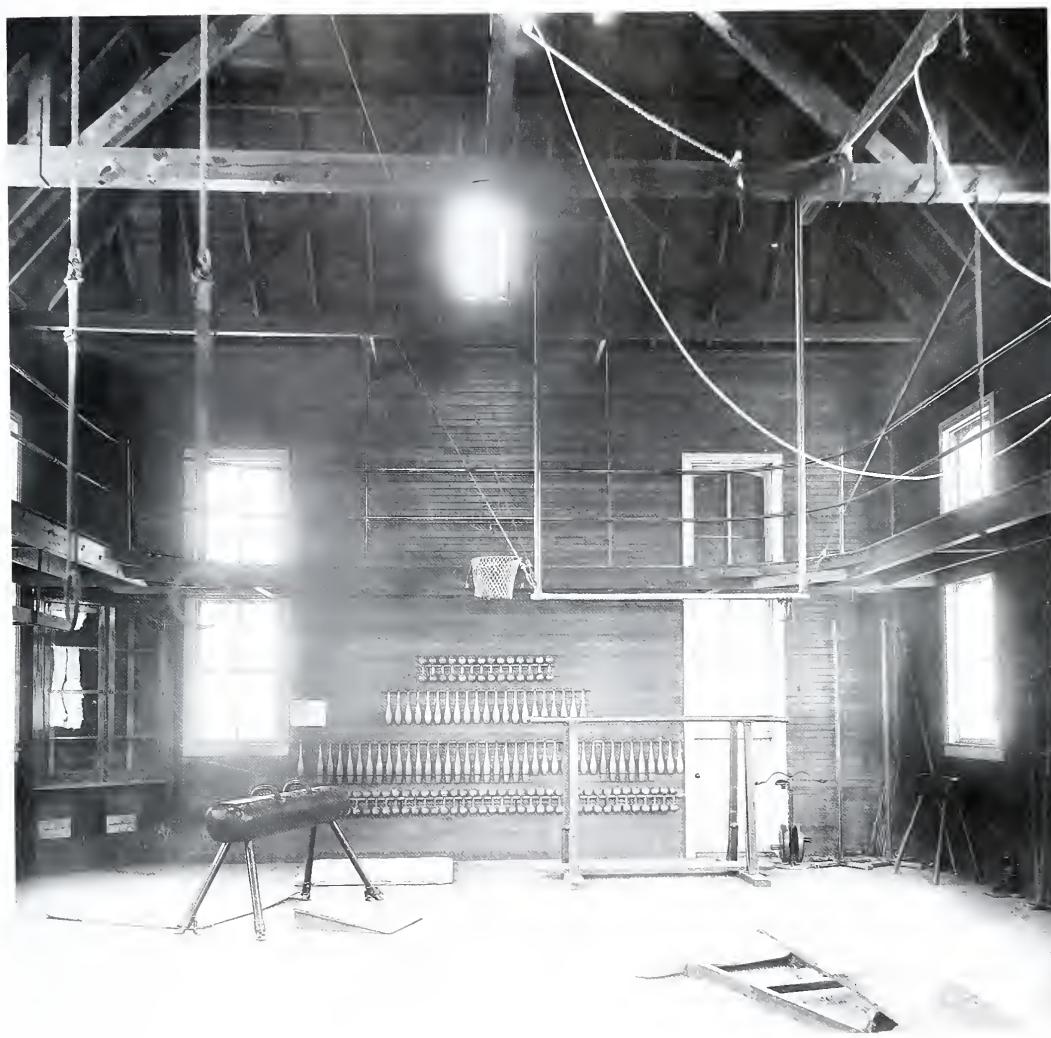
Controversy blemished the initial football triumph. *The Kent News* of December 11, 1889, reported that the game was forfeited due to a dispute over a player who was not a student—not a town "sport" this time, but a professor. Rowland Watts, "flanked on either side by Porter and Duer, was capable of holding anything from a cavalry charge to the onslaught of a battering ram," according to the newspaper account, but Dover Academy, who had come to Chestertown by train, objected to the use of the College librarian and alumnus. Interestingly, three years later, Rowland Watts was to turn down the position offered him by the College as the first athletic instructor. He went on to a career in athletics at Western Maryland College and later wrote a history of Washington College.

Football... is a problem. In football we have reached the lowest ebb.

We have become a doormat for college elevens that should be right in our class. The last time we beat St. John's the students burned down the bleachers. If we could beat them this season

William Smith Hall would be a suitable sacrifice.

Washington College Coach Tom Kabler, head of Athletic Department,
in interview with Harry S. Russell '26, Fall 1930.



The first gymnasium, which opened in 1892, featured an elevated running track.



Baseball, as seen in this pre-1916 photo, was the first competitive sport at Washington College.

The campaign, however, ended on a happier note on December 4 with a 36-0 shellacking of a football team of boys representing Still Pond. Star of the game, as he had been against Dover, was halfback Charles R. Twilley Jr., described as "slippery as an eel and quick as a cat."

Students not involved in team athletics of this period continued to play popular games such as croquet and Hare and Hounds, a variation of the game "hide and seek."

With Dr. Charles Wesley Reid's arrival as the new president, the 1889-90 academic year proved to be a pivotal one for athletics. A gymnasium was proposed and \$1,200 raised in the town. The Board pledged \$500 for new apparatus to replace the wooden clubs, chest weights, and ten pins used for exercise in the basement of West Hall. In the spring of the year tennis outfits were ordered and space was found on the lower terrace for two courts, "as pretty as any on the

Shore," according to *The Kent News*. During commencement week, Professor E. J. Clarke organized a day of sports.

The faculty, however, while encouraging the athletic association to place its emphasis on "mental, moral and physical culture," did not support intercollegiate competition, and professionalism was already rearing its ugly head. During the 1890-91 year the faculty drew up a resolution stating that "none but *bona fide* College students shall represent the College in any contests under the athletic association." In beating St. John's in baseball, 22-7, the students hired a battery (pitcher and catcher of a baseball team), Hawke and Hair from Wilmington, Delaware. H.V. Hawke went on to pitch in the National League.

Eleven women entering as day students highlighted the 1891-92 academic year. In athletics that fall, Western Maryland College fell, 22-4, for Washington College's first victory over a collegiate opponent. Alva Burton Burris and David William Tilden Zearfoss arrived to take the College to new heights in baseball.

Zearfoss, an outstanding catcher, culminated a brilliant four-year student career in 1895 as captain and received plaudits and a purse of gold coins from the townspeople. He went on to play major league baseball with the New York Giants and St. Louis Cardinals.

Burris, a native of Warwick, Maryland, drew the attention of a delegation from the athletic association sent to the Middletown Fair to scout out an ace pitcher to replace Clarence Prettyman. Pitching the 1892 season, Burris impressed College officials with not only his athletic ability, but his manner and intelligence. As school came to a close, the College Board asked him to be the

Personally, I am quite enthusiastic about what I believe

*Mr. Beatty can do for the College not only in the training of the
present team but in attracting football material, particularly if he is
able this year to put on the field an intelligent and scrappy team
that will command the respect of all its opponents.*

*I am still more enthusiastic about his introduction of lacrosse
which, it seems very possible, may prove a sport that
Washington College can shine in as it does in basketball.*

College President Paul E. Titsworth, on vacation in Rhode Island, writing to
Dean J. S. William Jones on July 18, 1928.



The College football squad was on the offensive during this 1938 game. Athletics had gained prominence with an improved field and a new gym, seen at the left.

first athletic instructor. He consented, took a summer course at Cornell, and returned to Chestertown to be a pioneer in athletics and physical education at Washington College.

Burris remained at the College helm through 1905, managing the new gym that opened in 1892, instructing, coaching, and playing fullback in football, managing, pitching, and playing shortstop on the baseball team. He even enjoyed a "cup of coffee" in the major leagues, pitching in one game for Philadelphia in the National League in 1894. He introduced basketball to classes in 1897. He received an A. B. degree in 1900, but was still pitching for the College team in

1901. Outstanding baseball teams marked the Burris era, highlighted by a perfect 11-0 season in 1897.

When Burris departed Washington College, he went on to study medicine and became a doctor. He practiced medicine and operated a drug store in Salisbury, where in 1938 the city recognized him as its most outstanding citizen.

During this period two other major leaguers graced the diamond of Washington College. John "Happy" Townsend, a wonder boy on the mound in 1898 and 1899, was lured away by the Philadelphia Phillies and was later traded to the Washington Senators with the legendary Ed Delehanty. Homer Smoot, a standout outfielder and a solid football player, went on to star in the outfield for the St. Louis Cardinals, playing 680 games and finishing with a .290 lifetime batting average.

When the new gymnasium opened in 1892, women almost immediately used it for exercise. They played basketball on an outdoor court where Kent House now stands and tennis on two courts adjacent to Normal Hall, built in 1896 as the first resident dormitory for women and later to become Reid Hall.

Bertha M. Stiles, the first woman appointed to the faculty in 1893, took an active role in encouraging "physical exercise for young ladies," according to Fred



Archery was one of seven intramural sports offered to women. This 1930 archery team, like the other women's activities, was under the direction of Doris Bell.

Tribute to a Hero

By James M. Cain '10

After the pears had been eaten, the swimming sampled, and the steamboat given the once-over, all business was suspended, so far as I was concerned, until one paramount point had been settled. Did this college have a football team or didn't it? And boy, I was hard to fool there! I came from a place where footballs grew on every tree, and I knew the stuff when I saw it. So when I went down to the field, the afternoon they held the first practice, I knew what to look for.

What I saw was a dreadful shock. Only two or three of the candidates were what I considered the proper size, and even these didn't have the right look on their faces. The suits were appalling. Several canvas jackets were on view, although canvas jackets had been obsolete since the Battle of Manila. Some of the stockings were black with maroon rings, some were maroon with black rings, some were plain maroon, and some were plain black. This was truly alarming. Football is a peculiar sport. Cost what it may, it must have class. For this, there is good reason. As the mettle of a regiment can be estimated by the condition of its equipment and the way it salutes, so the mettle of a football team can be estimated by the condition of its gear and the snap with which it goes about its work. This outfit had no gear, and God knows it had no snap.

It practiced with a lot of noisy gabbling. It tackled around the neck. It hit the line with its belly. It took big slugs of water between scrimmages. And the cheering section, when it was assembled for a workout some days later, was even worse. Girls were admitted to the rite, and ruined it with their shrill yipping. The place didn't even have a song. St. John's had a song, Adolph Torovsky, leader of the Marine Band, had seen to that, and composed a beauty. But not this place. Only some miserable version of "A Hot Time in the Old Town," with allusions to the Maroon and Black.

Presently my father went down to have a look at the practice. And if I was hard to fool, he was impossible to fool. He had learned his football at Yale, in the days when Camp really had his mind on it, and he had vastly increased his knowledge at Annapolis. For years, as a sort of sideline to his teaching, he had coached the St. John's team, and St. John's was pretty good then, as any old-timer will tell you. I take exception to many of my father's notions, for example his notion that he can make a speech. But one thing that I have to hand him is that he knows football. Even now, at the age of seventy-three, he could take charge of a squad of gorillas in September and bring home a winner. So when he spoke, God was talking. "They're a sad lot," he said, as he twisted a lemon peel over his drink before dinner. "St. John's will murder them."

"Why do they talk so much?" I asked.

"That's something you'll learn when you stay on the Eastern Shore a while. All these towns have some kind of bush-league baseball team, and most of these boys play ball in summer. In bush-league baseball, you're supposed to talk it up, as they call it."

"What for?"

"God knows."

"Haven't they any suits?"

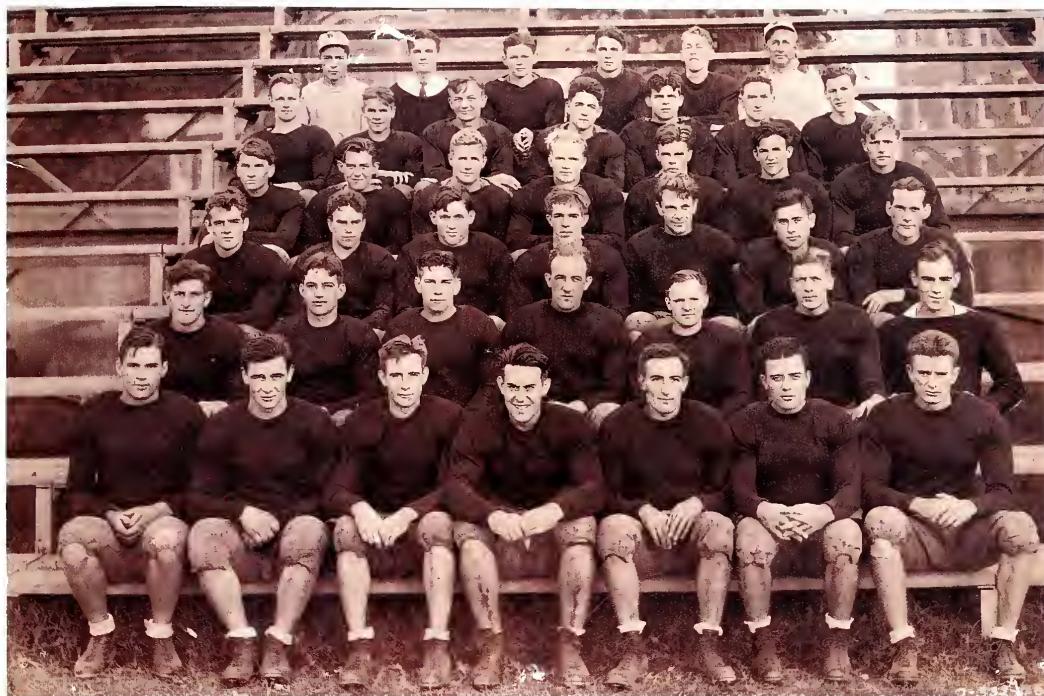
"The suits are bad, but maybe we can fix that."

"Why do they tackle around the neck?"

"Ah, why do they? But all that, that's not the worst of it. They don't play hard. That's the toughest thing to teach a football team. Plays are easy. One play is as good as another, so far as that goes, if you can execute it. But to get them to jump into every play with every ounce they've got, that's something else. I've nagged teams till they cried, but you can't win football games taking it easy. That's what this gang hasn't found out yet. They'll find out."

He sipped his drink, shook his head, and sighed. In justice to him, I must say he always tried to regard football as nothing more than a game, but down deep inside, he loved it.

Excerpt from the article "Tribute to a Hero," first published in The American Mercury in 1933. [W]

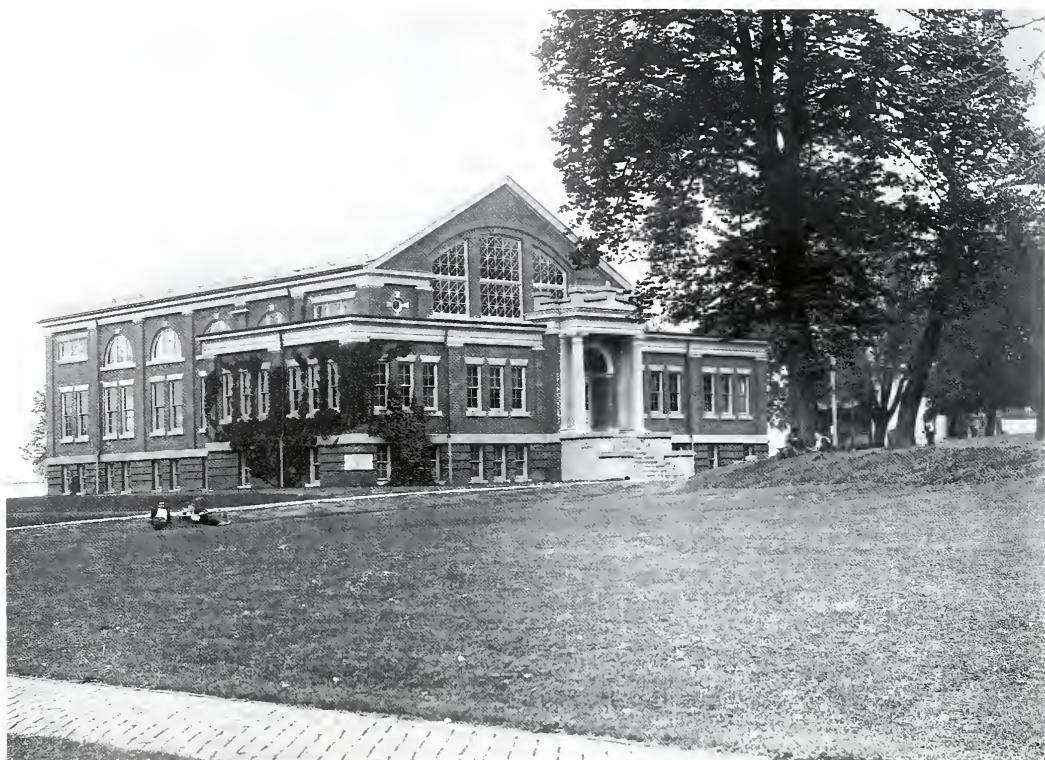


Coach Tom Kibler's 1931-32 Sho'men football team was little improved over the one President Cain and his son James encountered in 1905. They had uniforms, but went 0-9 that season.

W. Dumschott's history. It was not until 1926 that Doris Bell was appointed as the first true physical education director for women.

In her time, Bell introduced archery, badminton, fencing, field hockey, and volleyball to go along with basketball and tennis. She also taught ballroom dancing. Women engaged in an active intramural program, but there was little or no intercollegiate activity except a rare field hockey or basketball game with Goucher.

Novelist James M. Cain, who wrote *Double Indemnity*, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, and *Mildred Pierce*, was the son of James W. Cain, who brought his family to Washington College from St. John's College in 1903. The 1905 football season at Washington College provided an interesting perspective on the



Cain Gym survived damage during the William Smith Hall fire of 1916 mainly because snow on the roof extinguished embers.

school and Chestertown in James M. Cain's "Tribute to a Hero," an article that appeared first in *The American Mercury* in 1933. "At St. John's, to say nothing of the Naval Academy, the grass was mown to the semblance of green velvet. But here it grew as high as your knees; daisies were mixed with it, as well as bumble bees, and altogether it presented a distressing unkempt appearance."

In a piece he wrote about James Garfield Moore, who had led the Maroon and Black to a 17-0 upset victory in the final game of the 1905 season over the brass buttons of Maryland Agricultural College (now the University of Maryland), Cain had this to say: "He wasn't a hurdler, or a twister, or a dodger. He was a true line plunger, a very rare breed. He came up to it, there was the impact, he

was through, he was driving straight ahead, a string of tumbling tacklers behind him, he was down." Moore's electrifying seventy-yard run gave Washington the lead in the first five minutes and with the contributions of George White, L. C. McGinnes, and E. F. Hitch, tiny Washington College held off a mighty team that included Curley Byrd, later to be university president, and Barney Cooper, a Worton boy who became a star in football and track.

Basketball grew in popularity at the turn of the century, but courts were constricted with low ceilings and small playing areas. The gymnasium was thirty-by-forty feet with an overhead running track at eight feet above the floor. A few informal games were played by a team representing the College on the stage at Stam's Hall and on the third floor of the elementary school on High Street.

With the old wood gym rapidly proving to be inadequate for an expanding enrollment, Dr. Cain pushed for a new facility and gained approval from the Board in 1912. On December 7, 1912, the College inaugurated its first basketball season, bowing to Baltimore Medical College, 54-11. The team captained by



The 1924-25 basketball team, under Coach Kibler (far right, second row), carried on the winning tradition of the original Flying Pentagon.

Paul J. Wilkinson and coached by F. Stanley Porter did win four of ten games, despite discouraging 86-10 and 64-10 poundings from St. John's. H. L. "Pins" Pearson netted 18 points in a 37-21 win over Johns Hopkins.

The Cain Gymnasium served the College community well until its razing in the mid-1960s for the Clifton Miller Library. However, as intercollegiate basketball changed, the court became inadequate. Visiting teams found the facility claustrophobic and the fans intimidating as they breathed down backs and yelled abuse from the running track above. The building occasionally doubled as a dining hall and as a dormitory. The court provided a fine space for dances and was frequently used for balls.

In 1913 the stocky, well-built figure of John Thomas Kibler arrived on the Washington College athletic scene. "The Bald Eagle of the Eastern Shore" was to dominate it for the next thirty-five years. Born in 1886 at nearby Kibler's Corner, he had attended public schools in Chestertown until 1905 when he went on to Temple. During his time he excelled in baseball, basketball, and gymnastics. He received an A. B. in physical education in 1908. He coached at Lehigh and Ohio State and furthered his education at Yale before embarking on a professional baseball career.

Purchased by the Chicago White Sox in 1910 and drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in 1914, he played in the International League, Pacific Coast League, Texas League, Ohio State League, and the New York State League. A broken leg forced him to give up his diamond aspirations and devote his attention to Washington College athletics full-time in 1916. Three years before, while playing baseball in the Pacific Coast League in San Francisco, he had received a telephone call from Judge Lewin Wickes asking him to accept the athletic directorship and coaching position at Washington College. Wickes offered one hundred dollars a month for nine months. Kibler accepted it with the stipulation that he work in the morning with his father and brother in the coal and grain business, teach classes in the early afternoon and coach the teams in the evening.

Basketball and baseball were Kibler's forte. He relinquished coaching football on doctor's orders in 1930 and basketball in 1940, but baseball, his great love, he stayed with until the end in 1971.

Twice during his tenure he went off to war and returned each time even more the hero. As a captain in the 23rd Infantry, Second Army, in World War I, he led his company in six major offenses, was gassed, was wounded twice, and won the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, and Croix de Guerre. He was one of only nine officers from the original 130 to return.

Twenty-five years later and well into his fifties, Kibler served in World War II as a lieutenant colonel and post executive officer at Camp Pickett, Virginia. His only son, Lt. Jack Kibler, a P-51 fighter pilot, was shot down over Belgium on October 15, 1944. He never came home and is buried there.



Coach Tom Kibler is legendary as a taskmaster and a disciplinarian. He believed in the fundamentals, and he hated to lose.



The original Flying Pentagon basketball squad of 1922-23.

Left to right, the players are Henry "Gimp" Carrington, Fred W. "Dutch" Dumschott, Kirk Gordy, Jack Carroll and Mike Fiore.

Not every boy coming to Washington College and wanting to engage in athletics found Tom Kibler to his liking. The majority of athletes, however, swore by Coach Kibler until their dying day.

His football, basketball, and baseball teams previous to his 1917 enlistment in the U.S. Army were led by three-sport standouts Floyd Brown, Troy Biddle, Jack Enright, Bill and Fred Wallace, and the Young brothers, Page and T. H. "Guts" Young. Edward "Bodie" and John Caldwell spearheaded his 1915-16 and 1916-17 basketball teams to Maryland titles, and captain T. Reeder Spedden paced the 1916 baseball team to a state crown.

He returned after the war in 1920 and created basketball's famed "Flying Pentagon." John J. "Jack" Carroll, Fred W. "Dutch" Dumschott, A. C. "Kirk" Gordy, Henry W. "Hennie" Carrington, and Mike Fiore comprised "The Original Flying Pentagon" of 1922-23. W. Wilson Wingate, sportswriter for *The (Baltimore)*

Sun, tacked on the nickname and embellished on it as Washington College beat Loyola, Catholic University, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Washington & Lee, and the Quantico Marines in six games in six days on the road in the dead of winter. During the 1920s, Flying Pentagon stalwarts Johnny Bankert, Clayt McGran, Harry Seib, Bob Cavanaugh, Lewis Jacobs, George "Gimp" Carrington, Howard Dopson, and Stanley B. "Gerry" Giraitis added to the legend created by Wingate as Kibler fashioned a 20-0 season in 1924-25 and a 17-1 campaign in 1928-29.

The nickname, however, faded away in the 1930s, to be replaced by "The Shoremen," a nickname newspapers liked. Quickly, the newspapers shortened it to Sho'men to fit the dictates of column headline writing in an age of handset type.

The first baseball teams at the College and in town had celebrated the Indian tribes that lived on the banks of the river before the colonists brought the name Chester to its shores. However, the "Wissahicons" and the "Ozinies" were quickly replaced by names like "Chesters" and "Little Giants." Venus, a black mongrel, barked the 1893 baseball team to an eight-and-one season. Mascots never really caught on, although twice the student body supported the Chesapeake Bay Retriever in a poll. In 1982 an attempt was made to honor George Washington's coat of arms by promoting the griffin, a mythological creature having the body of a lion, the head of an eagle, and sometimes the tail of a serpent, as a mascot and a nickname, but the "Shoremen"—unique in its depiction of the toughness of the Eastern Shore waterman—prevailed.

A great moment in Washington College sports occurred in 1923 on a gray, blustery November day in Annapolis at St. John's College. In a scoreless football deadlock, the Kiblermen found themselves back at midfield on fourth down. John J. "Bobby" Cavanaugh called the play.

Much to my surprise this present Freshman class is not as interested in sports as they are in Danish Gymnastics, the posture work and health stunts; they go after a new exercise with enthusiasm and are anxious to be first to do it correctly, and at the end of the period are tired but still enthusiastic.

From 1935-36 annual report by Doris T. Bell, Instructor in Physical Education for Girls.



Fred W. "Dutch" Dumschott, a standout basketball and football player, was later inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame.

"Moxie" Carey, before molding six straight Maryland Intercollegiate State Championship seasons.

Beginning in 1935 with William Beck "Swish" Nicholson, Hobart Tignor, Bill Reinhart, and "Hickey" Fountain, his diamond teams resembled a fine Class D minor league team. Nicholson went on to star in the major leagues with the Chicago Cubs and Philadelphia Phillies.

With the arrival of freshman pitcher Addis "Lefty" Copple and shortstop Mike Kardash, his 1937 team won 14 and lost only to Maryland, 4-3. Ed Evans, Eddie Turner, Howie Pfund, and Bob Everett were also standouts. In 1938 the team went 12-1 with the only setback to Delaware, 3-0. Joe Bremer, Charley Geisler, and John Selby joined Copple, Kardash, Everett, and Pfund. The 1939 squad lost twice to the University of Maryland, 7-6 in 13 innings and 5-3, but won 11 games. Jim Stevens joined Bremer, Kardash, Copple, Everett, Pfund, and Art "Grit" Urie of Rock Hall, who hit .417 to lead the team along with Stevens.

"He called for punt formation," Dumschott remembered years later. "The wind was blowing about fifty miles per hour. I was down in front blocking. I heard cheering and didn't know what had happened. Bobby, with wind at his back, had decided to drop kick. The ball went straight as a die, splitting the uprights." Years embellished the kick, but it was recorded by the NCAA at fifty-five yards.

The campus went wild. *The Kent News* stated: "The entire student body 'played hooky' from classes. From early in the morning until late at night the students celebrated with unrestrained joy the victory. In the morning the students formed a huge W.C. out on the campus proper. Under the direction of the cheerleaders, yells and songs resounded in enthusiastic tribute to the Maroon and Black warriors; and later the students snake danced over the principal streets of Chestertown."

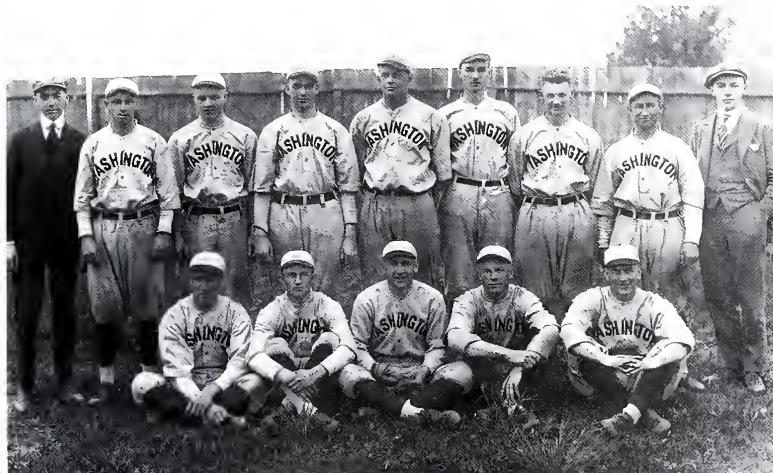
Kibler's cage quints remained strong through the 1930s, winning Maryland titles in 1935-36 with Alex Zebrowski and Wilbert Huffman and in 1938-39 with John Neubert and Zebrowski.

Kibler also had good baseball nines through the 1920s with D'Arcy "Jake" Flowers, "Nag" Duffy, Roger Smoot, "Buck" Griffin, "Reds" Burk, and

The football program had never been one of Washington College's strengths under Kibler. The 1923 team had Cavanaugh's heroics and the 1924 eleven with All-Maryland Jake Reiger at end and 300-pound guard Eddie Keenan won five and tied one in nine games, but those years represented the high points. In 1926 and 1927 Kibler turned the reins over to Philip G. Brown, who did little better. After two straight 0-9 seasons in 1930 and 1931, Kibler assigned the coaching duties to George Ekaitis, a collegiate boxing champion and a football standout at Western Maryland College, when it was ranked number two in the nation.

Ekaitis beat only Gallaudet in 1932 and Gallaudet and Haverford in 1933, but he was building with Bill Nicholson and Charlie Berry at halfback, Wilbert Huffman at fullback, and Ellery Ward, Hobart Tignor, Ellis Dwyer, Al Bilancioni and John Lord on the line.

The 1934 team added H. G. "Gibby" Young at quarterback, Jim Salter at left end and Ray Kilby at left tackle to the "first string" and rushed to wins over Gallaudet, 52-0, Johns Hopkins, 13-0, and Mt. St. Mary's, 12-6. After surviving a 6-6 tie against Susquehanna, Washington College buried Haverford 39-14 and stopped archrival University of Delaware, 29-7, to win the Senator Hastings Cup. Nicholson led the team in scoring with fifty points, third highest in Maryland and eleventh in the east. He and Ward were named All-Maryland by both Baltimore daily newspapers.



Coach Tom Kibler (second row, far right in uniform) coached baseball at Washington College for more than fifty years.



Dr. Charles B. Clark '34 (left), professor of history and dean of men, coached men's lacrosse between 1948 and 1956.

His 1954 team won the national championship.

Ekaitis went 4-2-1 in 1936 and 4-3 in 1937 with "Gibby" Young the star. His 1941 team was 3-3-1, but then the war came. Football and Ekaitis did not return until 1946. He coached for two more seasons. Then Dim Montero came to Washington College and produced a 4-2-2 campaign in 1949 and a 5-3 season in 1950 with Kenny Howard, Johnny Wilson, and Joe Ingarras as stars.

Washington College dropped football in 1951. President Daniel Z. Gibson gave the main reason as "a financial problem occasioned partly by a nationwide decline in enrollment." The Korean War also played a part. Gibson went on to state in a President's Corner column in 1960: "The time is long past when a tiny Centre College can beat mighty Harvard, and perhaps Washington College will not again have a Flying Pentagon which can meet all comers in basketball. For that unhappy state of affairs we can blame professionalism in college athletics."

Tom Kibler returned from the war and served the academic year of 1946-47 as Dean of Men and head baseball coach. He was now approaching sixty, honored and loved by the College and in the community. Upon the death of Gilbert Mead, president of Washington College, a movement arose to make Kibler president. He tendered his resignation in May 1947, stating a desire to take a more active part in C. W. Kibler and Sons. A testimonial dinner that November drew 250 with baseball great Branch Rickey, who was living in Kent County, as the principal speaker.

However, Kibler could not remain long away from Washington College. In 1952 after Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson became president, Kibler returned as his special assistant.

Baseball had been dropped in 1951 because of budgetary restraints, but Kibler was successful in promoting its return. His assistant was Edward Lorain Athey, a man who was to play a huge part in Washington College athletics for the next forty years. Ed Athey had come to Chestertown from Cumberland to play baseball, when World War II interrupted. He entered the service, flew missions over the Himalayas, then returned to play football, baseball, and basketball before his graduation in 1947.

Athey returned in 1948, was named athletic director in 1949, and never looked back. He built outstanding soccer teams throughout the 1950s, '60s and '70s and coached baseball, on and off, but mainly on, until 1997. He coached basketball, cross country, track, and junior varsity lacrosse at one time or another. He also played a leading role in the conferences in which Washington College played and served twice as president of the U. S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association and on numerous committees for the NCAA. Athey remained closely connected with Kibler, Dumschott, and Harry Russell, former editor of *The Kent News* and a college trustee, until their deaths. The four of them dominated Washington College athletics from 1913 until 1983.

Meanwhile, after an absence of thirteen years, lacrosse returned to the Eastern Shore campus in 1948 under the leadership of student Charley Hoffman and Professor Charles B. Clark. William P. "Chief" Beatty, who had been a star player at Maryland, introduced lacrosse to Washington College in 1929. Beatty was an instructor in English and a student of Dr. Reginald Van Trump Truitt, who started the game at Maryland. He was fond of calling him-



Earning its reputation as a David in the Goliath world of lacrosse, the 1954 Shoremen shared the Laurie Cox Division (later absorbed into the NCAA) championship with Syracuse University. Coach Charles Clark is to the left with his arm around team mascot Chuck Clark.

self "the father of white man lacrosse on the Eastern Shore," according to Phillip J. Wingate, captain of the 1933 team, writer, and long-time Washington College Board member.

Beatty announced that in the spring of 1929 he would introduce a sport that had all the dash of basketball, as well as football. But the opening game, a 13-1 "practice tilt" in Baltimore against powerhouse Mt. Washington, drew the following comment from a Baltimore paper: "It was clearly evident that Washington's greatest handicap was inability to handle the stick."

In the years that followed, Washington College fared only slightly better. Schedules included games against the powers of lacrosse—Johns Hopkins, Maryland, St. John's, Virginia and Mt. Washington College. In 1930 a powerful squad from Oxford-Cambridge, England, won 18-0.

Omar "Gus" Crothers followed Beatty in 1931, and Ekaitis took over in 1932 for two years. During the period between Beatty and Ekaitis, the College had a true All-American in goaltender Fritz Reinhold. Dick Gamber, Howard Plummer, Al Giraitis, Ellery Ward, Clark, and Wingate were outstanding players.

In 1948, Ray "Rip" Wood, Eddie Leonard, Captain Bill Crim, and Hoffman led the Washington College Lacrosse Club under Coach Charley Clark to eight victories, including wins over Delaware and Franklin & Marshall. The only losses were to the Annapolis Lacrosse Club.

In 1950 Washington College joined the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association and won ten games as Wood led the state in scoring and was named a third team All-American.

Clark won 75 of 108 games and captured the College's first national championship in 1954, sharing the Laurie Cox Trophy with Syracuse in the USILA's B Division.

With Clark's departure in 1956, the lacrosse program at Washington College was in jeopardy until Athletic Council chairman Harry S. Russell walked across the street from his editorship at *The Kent News* to Kelly's Buick-Chevrolet. There he talked Donaldson Naylor Kelly into taking the lacrosse coaching leadership at Washington College.



Coach Don Kelly was a strategic innovator, teaching players to score on the fast break and extra man offensive. As an attackman at Johns Hopkins University, he was ahead of his time in the techniques of the game. As a coach, he had a wonderful way of conveying a visual image of what the game should look like.



College women prepare to play field hockey in 1938, using the main campus as an athletic field.

Don Kelly was one of Johns Hopkins University's greatest players in football, basketball, and lacrosse, where only his freshman football season deprived him of twelve varsity letters. He had been out of the game for fifteen years and had come to Chestertown from Baltimore to raise a family and run an automobile business. Russell persuaded him to coach Washington College for one year, but he came back for twenty more through the 1977 season.

Kelly was quiet, almost shy, and it was not an easy task to take over for the stern, disciplinarian Clark, but he had the same result. Washington College was a winner. Kelly taught stick work and advocated the fast break and went on to win 167 games, upsetting Hopkins once and Virginia twice. Most of those years he had the players who could give him his fast break: Joe Seivold, Mickey DiMaggio, "Skippy" Rudolph, Gene Fusting, Bruce Jaegar, Bob Pritzlaff, Jim Chalfant, Carl Ortman, Ron Regan, Peter Boggs, Bob Shriver, Greg Lane, John Cheek, and G. P. Lindsay.

Soccer began as a sport in 1946 under Henry Carrington and the 1948 team, led by player-coach Turner Hastings and Bill McHale, went undefeated in eight contests. Ed Athey began coaching soccer in 1949, taking over the program in



Women play badminton inside Cain Gym in 1941 under the watch of Doris Bell, far left, who for years directed both social and athletic programs for coeds.

Q&A with Ed Athey

Edward L. Athey graduated from Washington College in 1947 and returned a year later as an assistant baseball coach under J. Thomas Kibler. He was named athletic director in 1949 and over the next four decades he coached basketball, cross country, soccer, track, and junior varsity lacrosse.

You grew up in Western Maryland and came to Washington College just as World War II broke out. Describe that time.

I attended Frostburg State for two years and played soccer, basketball, and baseball under Coach George "Gimp" Carrington, a Washington College graduate who had played under Coach Kibler and "Dutch" Dumschott. Washington College offered education courses qualifying one to teach on the high school level while Frostburg did not. Here, I was fortunate to attend the year, 1942-43, that "Dutch" had a good basketball recruiting year with freshmen Paul Blawie and young Ed "Goop" Zebrowski to go along with holdovers Frank Samele, Lew Yerkes, Jim Stevens, and Gerry Voith. We had a great year, but I was called up with two weeks left. Most of the players finished the season before being called up. "Goop" was killed in action. Others failed to return and the "dream team" never got together again.

How did World War II affect your life? The experience did a great deal in making a man out of a boy. Training in the Air Force Cadet Program was rigid and demanding, intellectually and physically. I had never owned a car, so, the thought of taking a plane off the ground was troubling. The Air Force apparently sensed this and the training program erased those thoughts. Managing a plane with a crew better trained me to be confident in handling the many teams I coached. I also married just before entering the service. My military experience, and being married with a child, made me more determined to return to

college. We were all grateful the government made this possible by providing the G. I. Bill.

You graduated from Washington College in 1947 and returned the next year with your wife, Rachel, after a year at graduate school. J. Thomas Kibler had ended his long association with the College and George Ekaitis was about to do the same. Fred Dumschott was left as acting athletic director. Was that a difficult period?

The athletic directorship, which was never mentioned when I was hired, was thrust upon me almost immediately. I was appointed to take over the required physical education program. I was officially asked to assume the duties of director of athletics in March 1948. "Dutch," who was the College business manager, helped me more than anyone. Coach Kibler became a close and valued friend as the years went by.

During your tenure as athletic director, Washington College left the Mason-Dixon Conference and joined the Middle Atlantic. How did that come about?

As a result of the NCAA deciding to divide all members into the present three divisions, Mason-Dixon Conference members decided to divide into two or three divisions. The Virginia members decided they would prefer to go their separate ways. Western Maryland, Hopkins, Catholic U., and Gallaudet tried to salvage Division III, but there were too few of us.

Why was football dropped at Washington College? Finances, primarily. The reason given by President Gibson was a shortage of manpower due to the Korean War. Also, surveys showed that only half of the student body attended home games. Gate receipts were also meager. Another contention on campus was that many of the football recruits were not able students and the faculty was criticizing the admissions department for making exceptions.

You coached many sports during your time, but you enjoyed special success with soccer. Why?

Don Yonkers, the outstanding coach at Drexel, always praised our teams for defense and had me give a demonstration at one of the national soccer meetings. However, the real reason was that I had players that were equal to or better than most of the teams we played.

You saw great change in intercollegiate athletics in the 1970s as women worked to be on par with men. What fueled the great change? Washington College recognized in 1952 that women would be entering the varsity program. Bobby Raymond, women's director, organized in 1965 a field hockey team that participated in an invitational meet at the University of Maryland with sixteen colleges. Later she organized a basketball team that played four games before the women decided they would prefer to drop the effort since it was taking too much time away from academics and other endeavors. Dropping of the compulsory physical education program freed coaches to switch over to coaching and accelerated the development of the women's varsity programs. Also the problem that faced the College, and me in particular, was that of budget, facilities improvement, training room, laundry, and playing fields. Improvements were recommended but the College lacked the funds to



Edward L. Athey '47, shown in this 1964 photograph, is beloved by generations of student-athletes with whom he has shared his simple philosophy that sportsmanship matters, that one should always give 100 percent, and that, ultimately, playing should be fun.

make changes. It meant that we had to improvise and in so doing it appeared at times that the women were being shortchanged, especially in the use of Cain Gym. The building was not built with women's varsity athletics in mind. Attempts were made to adjust and even to provide dressing rooms in the men's area. Not until President Cater found the money did the gymnasium area change to make all assistance the same for everyone. **W**



The 1956 opening of Russell Gymnasium, the successor to Cain Gym, brought, from left to right, Ed Athey, Tom Kibler, and Fred W. "Dutch" Diunschott together

earnest in 1953 and coaching until 1981, winning Middle Atlantic crowns in 1954 and 1969 and Mason-Dixon titles in 1961 and 1964. "Buddy" Brower, Doug Tilley, Roger Smoot, Joe Szymanski, Jack "Mule" Jennings, Mickey DiMaggio, Bob Bragg, Bruce Jaeger, Barry Drew, Joe Nichols, Paul Brown, Bill Williams, and V. J. Filliben were among many fine players. Tilley set a school standard in goals in 1953 with fourteen; Bragg broke it with fifteen in 1957. Jaeger moved it to seventeen in 1964, only to have the incomparable Billy Williams move it to twenty-two in 1973 and twenty-five in 1975.

Track had been an on-and-off sport at Washington College since 1890 when Professor E. J. Clarke organized a day of sport during commencement week. George Ekaitis had many successful seasons during his tenure in the 1930s with Gibby Young and Basil Tully. Athey had two Mason-Dixon Championship squads

with Larry Brandenburg, Mickey Hubbard, Ray Sutton, Jim Twilley and Lou Blizzard in 1949 and 1950.

Donald M. Chatellier joined the athletic department in 1955, coaching track and cross country. Outstanding performers during Chatellier's tenure included Mark Diashyn, Tony Parker, Al Reddish, Vance Strausburg, Ben Whitman, Dave Bird, and Mark Gilchrest.

Cross country came into being as a sport for men at Washington College in 1947. Larry Brandenburg and Fillmore Dryden were early standouts. In 1954 Lou Buckley won the Mason-Dixon championship. Joe Thompson, Andy Nilsson, Marty Smith, Ben Whitman, Dave Bird, Sam Martin, and Paul Schlitz were outstanding performers. When student interest in track and cross country flagged, Chatellier moved on to become a successful crew coach.

On a windy, gray Tuesday in April of 1968, a fledgling Washington College Crew Club took on St. John's College in the first race on the Chester River. On a choppy day above the Chester River Bridge, the Shore eight-oar shell "David Washburn" pulled away at the finish to win by a halflength. Captain A. D. Gilmour was at stroke with John Miller, Bruce Hill, Paul Fastie, Chris Rogers, John Carlin, Pat Chambers, and Andy Dyer at the other oars. Larry Varon was in the coxswain seat.



Standouts on the 1972 men's lacrosse team, from left to right, Tom George, Bob Shriner, and Peter Boggs.

Two Decades Bring Unprecedented Changes to College Sports

By Bryan Matthews '75, Athletic Director

The 1980s and 1990s witnessed an unprecedented change and growth of varsity athletics at Washington College. In the late 1970s the College competed in only eight varsity sports. By 1999 the number of teams the school fielded had more than doubled. Students participated on seventeen different squads, due largely to the addition of water sports and increased opportunities for women athletes.

Women's intercollegiate programs were greatly expanded—lacrosse arrived in 1982; field hockey in 1984; swimming in 1986; basketball in 1992; and soccer in 1998. In 1997 men and women teamed up for coed sailing. The popularity of women's rowing has grown throughout the 1990s and it was accepted as an National Collegiate Athletic Association sport in 1997. Men's swimming and sailing were added to the College sports roster in 1991 and 1997, respectively.

With the growth of varsity programs and the participation in sports by a greater number of students came a clear need for the expansion of the College's athletic facilities. By 1999 the College had more than three hundred students competing in varsity sports, with the number equally divided between men and women. Resulting changes to sports facilities made the athletic complex nearly unrecognizable to anyone who had graduated from the College prior to 1980.

The Casey Swim Center, opened in 1984, finally brought a long-promised indoor pool to campus and opened the way for varsity swimming at the College. The women's athletic fields—located across the railroad tracks on the western edge of the campus—were created in the 1980s. A Bermuda grass playing area for field hockey was completed in 1998. Renovations to the basement of Cain Gym were begun in the 1980s, with the creation of a training room and women's locker rooms.



Opportunities for women athletes—from lacrosse to crewing on the Chester River—were expanded dramatically during the 1980s and 1990s.

The Benjamin A. Johnson '11 Lifetime Fitness Center was completed in 1992, dramatically affecting the use of campus athletic facilities. Indoor practices and tennis matches were made possible year-around. The weight room became the center of campus workouts. New tennis courts were built along with the Lifetime Fitness Center, as the outdoor tennis center was moved to the northern end of campus. In 1998 the Ellen Bordley Schottland '42 Tennis Center was completed. This building is considered to be the finest Division III tennis complex in the region. Shriver Field—designated for women's soccer and lacrosse—was opened in 1995.

Electronic scoreboards were added to Athey Baseball Field, Kibler Field, Shriver Field, and the softball and field hockey areas. The volleyball game court was moved to the center court in Cain Gym in 1996. An electronic scoring system was installed in the Casey Swim Center in 1997, enabling touch-pad scoring for each lane.

One of the goals of the athletic department had been to maintain regional and nationally competitive teams. The commitment of the College to this end meant not only the addition of teams and facilities, but a search for seasoned coaches. The results included three national championships in five years (men's tennis in 1994 and 1997 and men's lacrosse in 1998); two NCAA field hockey appearances (1996 and 1997); two NCAA singles tennis championships in men's tennis; three students invited to the swimming nationals; men's basketball NCAA Final Four in 1990; and six consecutive Centennial Conference men's tennis championships. **[W]**

Rowing made rapid progress under the leadership of Professor Peter Tapke and the generous assistance of the late John Truslow, who supplied a large chicken coop across the river as the first boat house. Coaches Ben Troutman, John Wagner, Bob Neill, John Ihnat, and Don Chatellier supplied the spirit and challenge that stroked Washington College's advancement.

Mike Davenport, a member of several U.S. World Championship teams, was named head coach in 1990. In 1994, the rowers had three medalist boats at the DadVail in Philadelphia and a women's four win at the petite finals of the Champion International Intercollegiate Regatta.

The year 1970 saw the return of Tom Finnegan to the College. Finnegan had led Tom Sisk's 1963-64 basketball squad to one of Washington College's few winning seasons since Kibler and the 1930s. Finnegan's arrival as head basketball coach marked a new era, as he built a respectable program highlighted by a 25-6 record in 1989-90 and a third place finish in NCAA Division III with a starting five of Tim Keehan, Chris Brandt, Chris Jamke, C.J. Johnson, and Tim Liddy with Charles Duckett, Daren Vican, and Peter Basel off the bench.

In 1970 the Cain Athletic Center, named for James W. Cain, was opened, prompting a letter from son James M. Cain to President Gibson giving a picture of his father. "All his life he took part in sports, and was one of the end-of-the-century romantics, to whom 'for God, for country, and for Yale' was anything but a gag. He really believed that football developed character. You may be astonished to learn that I'm not repelled by this, and in fact have come to think it one of our country's great elements of strength.

"Once, researching a novel, I was utterly baffled by the feuding of our Civil War brass, from McClellan, Hooker, Meade, Sherman, Butterfield, the Porters, and Halleck, for the Union, to Jackson, the Hills, Bragg, Taylor, and Johnsons

*It is the duty of every student of Washington College
to support his team, and the least he can do is learn the cheers,
attend the pre-game rallies, and join in co-operative effort with the
following arousers of pep and enthusiasm: Romona Willey,
Wanita MacMullen, Joan Vanik, Sue Samuels, Lynn Diana.*

From 1952-53 College Handbook.



During the past thirty years, the rowing program has developed into a powerhouse sport for both men and women.

on the Confederate side—until it dawned on me that not one of these men had ever pulled an oar, batted a baseball, or carried a football. Sportsmanship, as we know it, they had never heard of, or team spirit, or bucking down for old Winsocki.

“And I began to see why American colleges, once organized sport moves in, went overboard, just a bit, for cooperation, togetherness, and the rest, replacing the self-centered individualism of the all-too-recent past. And though we now lower our voices a bit, I think this one-for-all, instead of all-for-one, is good.”

The 1970s witnessed the beginning of a women’s intercollegiate competition. Crew began it all when, in the spring of 1973, a women’s eight lost to a more experienced Williams shell in its inaugural race. Two weeks later they

won their first intercollegiate victory with a stunning upset over George Washington on the Potomac.

Field hockey had long been popular, but it was not until the 1980s that a regular schedule was played on a consistent basis under Coach Diane Guinan. Tennis as an intercollegiate sport for women began in the 1970s with Tom Finnegan and Penny Fall as coaches. In the 1980s, with the presence of President Douglas Cater and his wife Libby, Washington College saw increased growth in the women's program. Lacrosse under mentor Nancy Dick, and softball and volleyball under the guidance of Penny Fall, all made their entrances. The Caters also brought a swimming facility to the campus through the generosity of Eugene and Betty Brown Casey. When Geoff Miller became the athletic director in 1986, swimming, with coach W. Dennis Berry, and basketball under mentor Lanée Cole-Smith, gave women eight intercollegiate sports.

The Casey Swim Center gave the campus a whole new dimension with intercollegiate sports for men and women, youth activities, and exercise offered.

Meanwhile, in men's lacrosse, Bryan Matthews, a standout goal tender in the 1970s, continued the great traditions of Clark and Kelly with a solid program and stars Dick Grieves, Peter Jenkins, Paul Hooper, and Geoff Kaufman. In 1982 his team suffered a heartbreakin 9-8 loss in sudden-death overtime at Hobart for an NCAA Division III title. After Matthews departed for Navy in 1983, Terry



A varsity sailing program has emerged within the past three years.



Tim Gray '86 (far right) and his 1994 tennis team captured the College's first NCAA Division III national title. Pictured from left are team members Andrew Moffat, Damian Polla, Robin Sander, Andrew King, Michael Kember, and Miroslav Beran.

Damian Polla '97, who led the 1994 and 1997 tennis teams to national team titles, is a two-time national singles tennis champion.



Corcoran came down from Princeton and, with the help of Clint Evans, created a solid program. When Miller moved on to Goucher in 1994, Matthews returned to his *alma mater* as athletic director, bringing in John Haus to replace the departed Corcoran.

Haus built another fine program and in 1998 helped lead Washington College to its first NCAA Division III lacrosse championship. The Shoremen defeated Salisbury State University 12-10 in the May 16 semi-final. A week later, the team won 16-10 against its most recent nemesis, defending champion Nazareth College, in the Division III final at Rutgers Stadium in New Jersey. That year Haus moved to John Hopkins University as men's lacrosse coach. He was succeeded at Washington College by J.B. Clarke, formerly an assistant lacrosse coach at Loyola College.

Tennis, played on the campus almost as early as baseball, did not enjoy great intercollegiate success until 1986 when Fred Wyman and Holly Bramble directed programs for men and women.

Intercollegiate competition had begun in the 1930s with coach Arthur L. Davis and continued with Dr. Winton Tolles until World War II. Tom Eliason and Ed Athey coached the men's team well into the 1960s when J. Bernard Merrick took over, followed by Tom Finnegan from 1974-1985.

The Wycoff brothers, Gary and Bruce, led the Shoremen to an 8-2 record in 1952 for Eliason. Washington College did not reach that many wins again until 1974 for Finnegan with Pat Yahner and Don Green as stand-out players. Finnegan and Wyman were 12-5 in 1985.

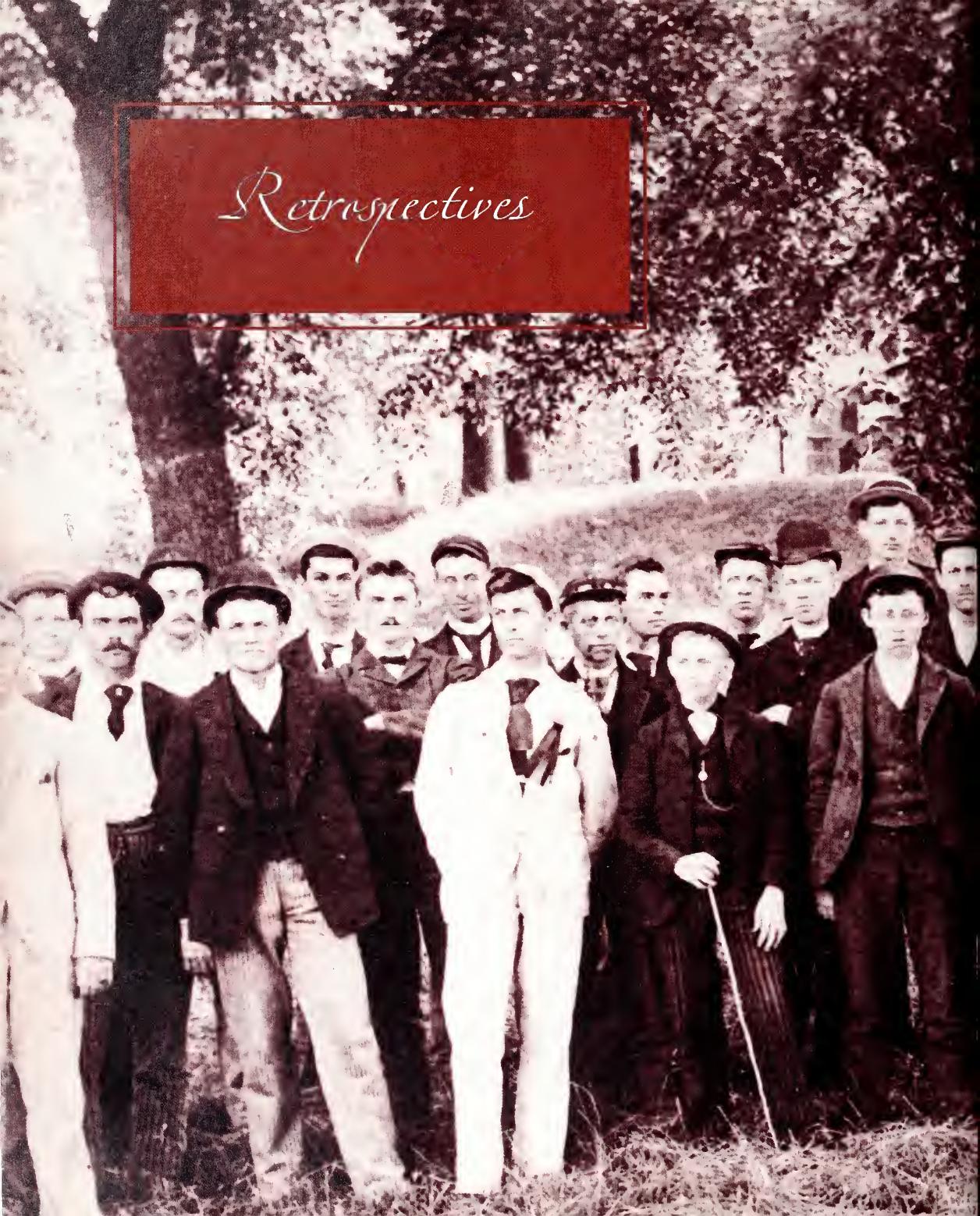
Washington College won its first of six straight Middle Atlantic Conference men's crowns under Wyman in 1986. In 1987 WC placed third in NCAA Division III. Wyman and Bramble coached through the 1991 season to be followed by former player Tim Gray, 1992-95, and Matt Rose, 1996 to the present, coaching both men and women.

By the late 1990s, Washington College had won five consecutive Centennial Conference men's championships, never losing a match in conference play. The Shoremen also won thirteen straight conference titles.

In 1994 Washington College broke through, winning the NCAA Division III men's tennis championship. Three years later the College men won their second title.

One hundred and thirty years after organized athletics debuted on campus, Washington College could boast fifteen intercollegiate sports, seven for men and eight for women.

The Wissahicons have faded from memory, the old gyms have been ground to dust, Burris, Bell, and Kibler and many other greats honored and laid to rest, but the old College on the Hill continues to shine in intercollegiate sport. James M. Cain might agree finally that "one-for-all" still lives. **[W]**



Retrospectives



Voices Through Time

Washington College's history is inexorably linked to the social and cultural history of the nation. As the nineteenth century dawned, one young alumnus balanced his propensity for fisticuffs with a career in medicine and learned a valuable lesson about personal integrity and honor. Well into the twentieth century, members of the College community were still fighting for honor and the right to equal education. As the dueling pistol successively gave way to oration, civil action, and the power of the pen, the College reflected these new modes of persuasion. The following voices speak volumes about who and what we were, way back when.

Peregrine Wroth: Fighter, Philosopher, and Physician

By Davy McCall

Dr. McCall, a Kent County historical preservationist, is lecturer of economics emeritus.

Overleaf, students of the early 1890s, including some youths apparently of preparatory department age, gather at the foot of the Hill.

PEREGRINE WROTH WAS CHESTERTOWN'S own Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes. Not only did he have an active career and physician's practice, he also operated a drug store in Chestertown and was the author of a book (*History and Treatment of the Endemic Bilious Fever of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*), numerous essays on history and philosophy, and dozens of letters. One



Literature was another passion of Dr. Peregrine Wroth. As a "diversion" from his medical studies, he made a translation of Ovid's Metamorphoses in English hexameters.

of his correspondents was Mrs. Robert E. Lee. The letters he wrote and received were meticulously copied into notebooks, a number of which his descendants have given to Washington College.

He was born in Chestertown in 1786 to a prominent local family. Wroth obtained his early education in the local schools and then from 1795 until 1803 studied at Washington College. When he was sixteen, he started to read medicine with Dr. Edward Worrell and then attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wroth taught chemistry at the College, beginning in 1846, and was a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors for more than thirty years. He was intimately involved with the creation of the American Medical Association and was a founding member when the convention was held in Baltimore in 1848.

The good doctor was as active in private life as in the medical field. He married four times and was four times widowed. As an old man he wrote that if he had known he was going to live so long, he would have married again.

He fought in the Battle of Caulk's Field, Kent County's major military encounter during the War of 1812, and wrote an heroic poem about the battle. He was an active spokesman for freeing American slaves and resettling them in Africa. He was close to some of the free African Americans in Chestertown, particularly Thomas Cuff, to whom he sold several acres in Scott's Point in 1818. Cuff was a founder of Bethel AME Church in Chestertown and resold some of the land he had purchased from Dr. Wroth to fellow members of Bethel. In his will, Cuff named Dr. Wroth as his executor.

My school days at Washington College

offer some of the more pleasing reminiscences of my life.

I was anxious to become a scholar and was fond of Latin,

Greek, and Mathematics and I got through as others did—

Indeed I may say, among the best of them.

Dr. Peregrine Wroth, in his handwritten autobiography

Dr. Wroth was not afraid of a fight, and he describes in his memoir two such encounters. The first was a boyhood fist fight:

"In those days, the students of the College did not always confine themselves to the playground and extensive lawn in front of the College building. Quarrels were frequent and fights an occurrence of at least once a week. I had two. The first was with Charles Pratt from Queen Anne's County and one of the bullies of his class. I then wore my hair tied behind in a queue. He kept his coarse black hair shaved pretty close to his head. When the ring was made and we were stripped for the fight, he managed me at his will until he tore all the hair from my head. I could not catch him by his hair. It was too short to keep hold on. But after he had gone mine off, we were then on an equality and in a few minuets I drove him out of the ring by hard blows and he seized a stone to crack at me. He was prevented by the judges of the fight and pronounced whipt.

"Some of the restless spirits of the school got up a fight between Pete Tilden and myself, tho' we personally had no dispute. We were conducted after dismissal of the schools at five p.m. under a tree in a valley of Wilmer's field and fought nearly an hour with varied success. At the end of this time our seconds became alarmed lest we should both be killed and separated us—we could scarcely see to find our way home. My father went to College the next morning to inform Dr. Ferguson that he thought my life in danger from the bruising and he found Miss Viner, the aunt and guardian of my antagonist, on the same errand. Dr. Ferguson discovered who were the seconds and gave them a good flogging. There the matter ended."

As a young man he was involved in a duel, described in his memoir:

"During the summer of 1805, my college chum Pearce asked me one day to take a walk. After enjoining secrecy upon me, he informed me that Dr. Anderson's pupil Wilson had challenged him to mortal combat, that he had accepted and that they were soon to meet with pistols. I was deeply affected and begged him to permit me to mediate between them. He positively objected on account of our known intimacy—believing that Wilson would always think that my interference had been suggested by him.

"As the day approached for the duel, Pearce gave me notice that he should expect me to attend him in the character of surgeon. Being entirely without surgical experience, with the single exception of phlebotomy. I urged that Dr. Browne should be employed, but he peremptorily declared he would have none but me. On the evening preceding the appointed day, we started from town, crossed Chester River in the ferry boat (long before the bridge was built) and went through Queen Anne's to Head of Chester, since named Millington, where we spent the night. Before we retired to bed Alexander Stuart, Wilson's second, asked an interview with Robert Wright (eldest son of Robert Wright, afterwards Governor of Maryland), Pearce's second, and proposed that on the mor-

row the parties should fire as long as either of them could hold a pistol. This bloody proposal was promptly agreed to.

"The next morning, we proceeded on the Smyrna road until within the Delaware line. A suitable spot was chosen—the ground measured off ten paces and the principals took their stations. At the word, Pearce fired—raising his other pistol, he found it only half-cocked and turning about half round to cock it, Wilson discharged his first pistol and struck Pearce about the middle of his back. The ball did not enter the skin and was found afterwards in his boot. Pearce turned around facing his antagonist and fired his second pistol, and struck him about the middle of his arm, breaking the radius and wounding the radial artery. Wilson's left arm (the one wounded) was crossed over his breast—or the bullet would have entered his breast about the heart. Wilson then thought he would make sure work and advanced intending to kill him; but to leave his station was contrary to the rules agreed upon and Pearce's second presented a pistol, swearing he would shoot him if he did not stop. Thus, as Wilson had violated the terms, the battle was at an end and he threw down his pistol and laid down on the ground. It was not known before that he was wounded.

"His surgeon Dr. Gordon then following his profession in the Head of Chester, ran to him and finding him badly wounded, hurried him with a temporary bandage to the village. We also hurried from the field and when we arrived I examined and dressed Pearce's back—and laughed at him, saying he must have been running, to get a wound in that part. He bore our raillery very good-naturedly. Understanding that Wilson's wound was only in the arm, we were all in high spirits, not dreaming of danger.

"Dr. Gordon called Dr. Geddes in consultation and finding the radius much shattered and the artery wounded, proposed amputation of the limb. To this Wilson absolutely objected. About two weeks afterwards, after some severe hemorrhages, gangrene came on and when there was no other hope, he consented to the amputation. The operation was performed but without success. About a month after the duel poor Wilson died.

"From this time it was evident that Pearce was strongly affected. He indulged in abundant spirits which would produce exuberant spirits—for a time. But his friends saw that his conscience was wounded and that happiness had fled forever. He never got over it. As soon as his studies were completed, he emigrated to Ohio—he became deranged—and leaving Urbana to visit a settlement of the Shakers at some distance, was never seen again in life. It was discovered that he had not reached the Shaker settlement. Search was made and his bones and clothes were found in the woods and it was supposed the had been devoured by wolves which then abounded in that part of Ohio. This happened about 1814 or 1815."

“Earliest Affections” of Washington College

By James A. Pearce. Class of 1860

The son of Senator James A. Pearce, the younger Pearce was a College Trustee from 1863 to 1917. The following remarks were made in 1895 at a banquet of the Mount Vernon Literary Society on Washington's Birthday.

THE REMINISCENCES OF MY COLLEGE DAYS date from January 1854. I had never then attended any school, public or private, having been always taught at home, and the awe with which I looked forward to entering college was something inexpressible. I went literally in fear and trembling, both of teachers and students, for I had no brothers, and had but little contact with other boys. But the wind is always tempered to the shorn lamb, and I soon found my awe giving way to other feelings. The principal at that time was Francis Waters, a stately and impressive old school gentleman, distinguished as an instructor and disciplinarian, and as kindly as he was dignified. I shall always admire and cherish his memory as a true gentleman and scholar.

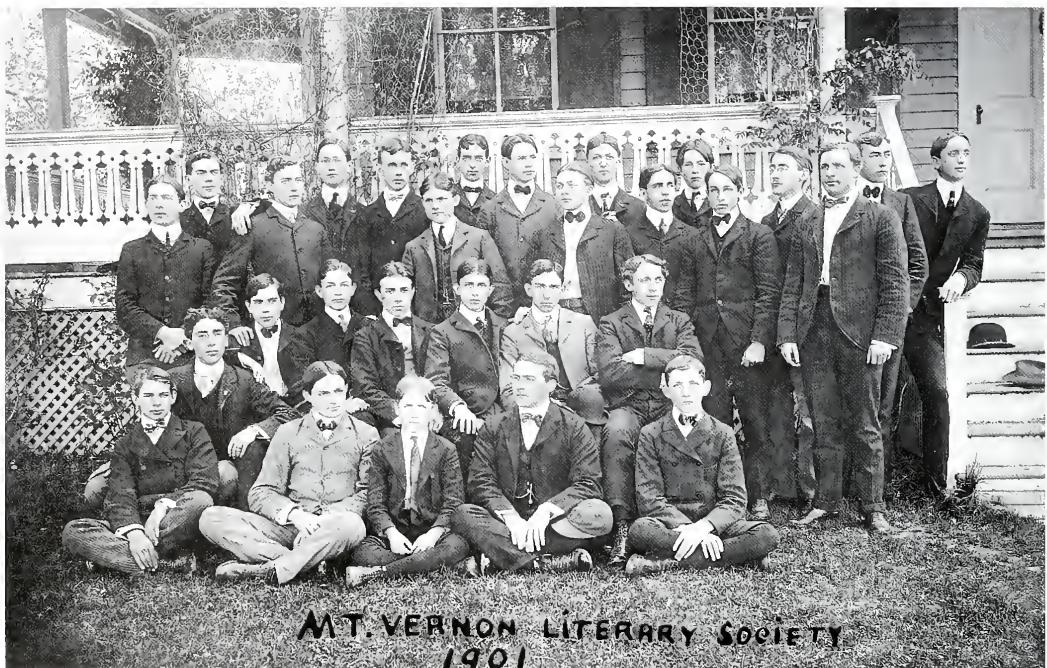
It was my fortune, however, to be under the direction of a tutor, whose name I need not give, and whose intellectual qualifications were ample, but who was not himself a gentleman, and had no conception that a boy could be a gentleman. He succeeded in making me very miserable during his reign, and time has not yet effaced the recollection of many unfeeling insults offered by him to me and others whose progress or conduct did not win his approbation.

I shall never forget my first reading in Latin with him. I had an elementary reader at home and had little grammar. I was put in a class with students older and much better prepared than myself. I could not read Latin without trembling and halting, and I could not render it even with decent English. As for parsing, I did not know what that meant, and after some days of hopeless effort to keep up, I was degraded from the class into which I should never have been put, and found myself in a lower class, where, under the influence of a better man and teacher, I succeeded in acquiring some knowledge of my Latin studies.

The Library shall be open between the hours

of 1 and 2 p.m. every Thursday.

Adopted by the College Board, April 30, 1855.



The Mt. Vernon Literary Society, founded in 1847, was one of the most active student organizations. It lasted well into the 1960s.

Dr. Waters was succeeded by Andrew J. Sutton, who was educated at St. Mary's College, Baltimore, in its balmy days, and it was my good fortune to be thrown chiefly under his personal instruction. His general scholarship was high, but in his mastery of the English and Latin tongues he was the peer of the best man I have ever known. His English was drawn from the undefiled wells of Chaucer, and he read and spoke the Latin language with a charm of accent and intonation which was indescribable, and rendered into English, with a clearness and elegance which won the admiration of all who heard him.

While I was a student at the College, the present east and west buildings were erected. The second floor of the west building was known as Broadway and the third floor as Pig Alley and the character and habits of the residents in some sense justified the names. The citizens of Broadway were comparatively neat and orderly; the denizens of Pig Alley neglected the amenities of college life. During

the day (for I was a day scholar), I occupied No. 6 Broadway, the last room on the right going south, which was the home of my best friend and classmate, Samuel K. Dennis of Worcester County, one of the best men who ever lived.

I did not graduate at Washington College. I went in 1857 to Princeton, and though admitted as a sophomore half-advanced. I may say with becoming modesty that I graduated in 1860, second in a class of eighty-eight.

I will only add that my earliest affections are connected with Washington College and they will remain warm and true as long as I live. Whenever I enter her halls or come within their shadow, I pay silent tribute to the magic memories of youth. Long may Washington College stand to educate and elevate the youth of the land.

The College in “Horse and Buggy” Days

by Ernest A. Howard '05

Howard, a 30-year member of the Board of Visitors and Governors, first arrived on campus on September 18, 1900 and graduated *cum laude* in 1905. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities degree at the Washington's Birthday Convocation in 1970. The following recollections are excerpted from memoirs written in July 1953.

THE TRIP ON THAT FIRST DAY from Elkton to Chestertown consumed a little over four hours by rail. The final stage of the journey was made by the Kent County train, which was composed of a single passenger coach attached to a string of freight cars and was usually referred to as the “jerkwater.” Other passengers on the train that morning were Professor E. J. Clarke and wife, Walter E. Gunby of Berlin, Maryland, and Ernest R. Biles of Fair Hill, Maryland.

We walked up from the station which was then on the western edge of town, and our trunks were hauled to College Hill by a hack man who answered to the name Levi. That afternoon President Reid assigned me to a room on the third floor of East Hall.

Those were the horse-and-buggy days, and to the west of the gym there was a row of sheds for sheltering the teams of those day students who drove in from the nearby country. These sheds also served to camouflage the men's latrines in the rear, a region which was jocosely known as “Egypt” in the era prior to the introduction of plumbing. Between East and Middle halls was a well from whose depths we imbibed aqua pura by means of an iron ladle which was secured to the pump by a stout chain. Legend had it that this dipper was a gift from George Washington himself.



At the turn of the twentieth century, the low-slung Chester River bridge was built upon wooden trusses and provided a swing gate to allow boats to pass through. This, the first non-toll bridge, superseded a toll bridge and ferry boat service across the river.

In the basement of Normal Hall were located the kitchen and dining room for all students. They were members of a cooperative boarding club whose affairs were managed by a commissary, William McFeely. In addition to invoking a blessing before each meal, McFeely furnished good substantial food for his club members at cost price, averaging about two dollars weekly.

Except at meal times, the male population was sedulously excluded from Normal Hall and the surrounding premises. Another exception was made when the young ladies, under the watchful eye of a chaperone, were permitted to receive the gallants of East and West halls every other Friday evening between the hours of eight and ten o'clock in the parlors of Normal Hall. In view of the restraints and close surveillance to which the occupants of Normal Hall were continually subjected, there was many an *affaire d'amour* carried on by means of a clandestine correspondence.

Middle Hall in those days might properly have been called the administration building. On the first floor were four classrooms. The southwestern quarter

was the classroom of the president, Dr. Charles Wesley Reid. Adjoining his was the classroom of Professor Clarke, English instructor, while Miss Katherine Kemp Hobbs, principal of the Normal Department, presided over the remainder of the first floor. Dr. James Roy Micou and the shades of Virgil, Cicero, and Horace held forth on the second floor directly over Dr. Reid, while Dr. J. S. William Jones, of the Department of Mathematics, occupied the room across the hall from Dr. Micou, and Miss Alice Riley taught French and German in the north-western quarter of the second floor. The other section of this floor housed the College library.

The third floor of Middle Hall was reserve dormitory capacity. It also served occasionally as a quarantine ward and sometimes a kangaroo court here held its sessions and dispensed student justice. The basement of Middle Hall provided living quarters for the janitor and his spouse. At that time the incumbent was William Hudson. He was later succeeded by one Charles H. Brown, whose most noticeable characteristics were his extreme strabismus and his pink chin whiskers. The daily chores of the janitor required him to make up the beds, empty the slop-jars, and fill the water pitcher with which each room was furnished. Another duty was to carry the mail to and from the local post office.

West Hall was populated by freshmen and students in the Preparatory Department. In those days Dr. A. Sager Hall used the northern end of the basement of West Hall as his recitation room, with the physical and chemical laboratories in the rear.

*The boys were not averse to participating in a bit of
mischief if the opportunity invited. Whenever a stray
horse wandered upon the campus for some peaceful
grazing, he was promptly corralled, a bucket or several tin
cans were attached to his tail, and he was released with
his head in the direction of town. The frightened animal
usually bolted down Washington Avenue at a fast gait
with the strange appendage clattering at his heels.*

Ernest A. Howard '05, in his memoirs.

The Mother's Day Soldier

“Several others and I donated enough money to put her in a private sanitarium. At her wish, I agreed to carry on her work. The first Mother's Day after her death, I held a service at which a bronze plaque of her likeness was dedicated.”

So wrote Maude Olivia Hickman, College Class of 1900, in describing how she carried the torch for a nationwide celebration of Mother's Day following the death of the holiday founder Anna M. Jarvis in 1948. Hickman, who ran her own purchasing agency and traveled the world, met

Jarvis at the end of World War I. Jarvis's mother had organized the first Mother's Friendship Day to unite families after the Civil War. Following her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis lobbied politicians and ministers to set aside a day to honor all mothers. In 1914, Pres. Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day the second Sunday in May.

Hickman, who included clean streets and anti-communism among her causes, served as the most vocal spokesperson for Mother's Day the rest of her life. [W]

The large room on the first floor of West Hall was used as an assembly hall. Here the entire student body and faculty assembled at 11:30 in the morning, five days a week, for chapel exercises. The exercises consisted of a Scripture reading and prayer, announcements, and reports of infractions of College regulations, together with declamations by three hapless individuals before the assembled multitude. A declamation was required once a month of every one except seniors, and seniors were obliged to deliver two formal orations during the year—one on the day before the Christmas holidays and the second before the Easter holidays.

At the conclusion of chapel, Dr. Reid would repair to his office and those who had been reported as transgressors would follow him thither for the purpose of attempting to establish alibis or to learn the penalty to be meted out in case it was more desirable to enter a plea of *nolo contendere*.

• • •

The faculty dwells in memory and though its members have all gone to their rewards, I still feel for them the same respect and affection that I did fifty years ago. They were all sincere, conscientious men, devoted wholeheartedly to their work, and giving their lives in a vocation which offered no advancement and yielded very small financial compensation. If Washington College ranked low in



Some of Ernest Howard's beloved professors remained on the faculty through the 1920s during the administration of President Titsworth (front row, far right). Dr. A. Sager Hall (far left) and J.S. William Jones are pictured in the front row.

wealth and size, it did not suffer in the matter of faculty when compared with more renowned institutions.

The president, Dr. Charles Wesley Reid, taught Greek, logic, political economy, and civil government. Dr. Reid was familiarly known as "Dutch." He was very bald, wore a spreading chin beard, and rode a bicycle despite a tendency to be corpulent and awkward. He did not possess much fluency as a speaker and I recall that the prayers he offered in chapel were those to be found in the Book of Common Prayer.

James Roy Micou, professor of Latin and the vice-principal, was known to one and all as "Mike." He was born in Tappahannock, Virginia on February 3, 1859, was educated at the University of Virginia, and came to Washington College in February 1887 to teach for the ensuing forty years. His learning and phenomenal memory were fully recognized. Mike was perhaps the most popular teacher and best liked by the boys. He had a number of mannerisms. He would toss a piece of chalk in the air while pacing the floor, he appeared to whistle inaudibly, and he had a quizzical manner of peering over his eye-glasses, especially when he engaged in a colloquy of this kind:

"How much of this passage have you translated, Mr. Brittingham?"

"The greater part of it, Doctor."

"And how much haven't you translated?"

"Oh, the other part."

Abram Sager Hall had become head of the Science Department in 1896 and remained in that post for thirty-one years. He was born in Saline, Michigan, on September 19, 1855, and in 1878 received the third Ph.D. conferred by the University of Michigan. Dr. Hall was a slender, wiry man and at first cultivated sideburns which disappeared in a year or two. He was an original thinker and

*It evolved upon me in my senior year to represent
Washington College in the State Oratorical contest and
when I went to College Park for that purpose on the
evening of April 28, 1905, I was attired in Dr.
Clarke's dress suit in which Mrs. Clarke had made
some necessary alterations for that occasion.*

Ernest A. Howard '05, in his memoirs.



Ernest A. Howard was one of five 1905 graduates to process through the streets of Chestertown to Stam's Hall for commencement exercises.

probably the most inspiring teacher on the faculty. When he explained a problem in his class he would speak with the most grave look on his face and hold his listeners in close attention. At the end of his talk he would quickly break into a smile and every one relaxed. Dr. Hall was also a musician. For many years he was director of the choir in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chestertown.

J. S. William Jones had been called to head the Department of Mathematics in 1892, only three years after his graduation from Washington College, and his active and intimate connection with his *alma mater* was destined to continue longer than that of any other person in the history of the College. He was a native of Chance, Maryland, where he was born on November 19, 1866. Dr. Jones wore a heavy mustache and had a habit of jerking his head while talking.

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Any narrative of Washington College would be incomplete if it omitted mention of Alva Burton Burris, better known as "Prof" Burris. He entered the College as a student in 1892 and displayed such athletic prowess that in two years he was given the post of Athletic Director. In this capacity he served for twelve years, 1893 to 1905. During that time he was head coach and in charge of the entire athletic program.

"Prof" Burris was soft-spoken and mild-mannered, and sympathetic and helpful in looking after the physical ailments of the boys. I still bear the scar of a furuncle which he treated by an application of soap and sugar. After leaving Washington College he made medicine his profession and became a successful physician in Salisbury.

In my opinion George W. Powell '02 was outstanding as a wit and humorist. He was Humorous Editor of the Collegian, as the monthly student publication was then called. I recall a wager which was made between Powell and Dudley G. Roe '01 on the outcome to the Presidential election in 1900. The former supported McKinley for reelection, while Roe backed William Jennings Bryan to win, and it was agreed that the man whose candidate lost in the election would propel the other in a wheelbarrow from East Hall to Normal Hall at breakfast time on the morning after election. Powell rode to breakfast in a wheelbarrow on the front of which an American flag fluttered in the morning breeze.

The foremost orator of those times was Alexander L. Harrington '06. He was able and willing to debate any subject at any time. He represented Washington College in the annual oratorical contest of Maryland colleges at Westminster on April 24, 1903, and was an easy winner of the state championship. His theme was "Foundations of American Greatness."

In the fullness of time our prescribed course was completed and on a hot Sunday morning in June we sat in historic Emmanuel P. E. Church and heard the baccalaureate sermon preached by the Right Rev. William Forbes Adams, Bishop of the Diocese of Easton.

One of his unforgotten epigrams was this: "The Bible is greatly respected, but the *New York Herald* is much more avidly read."

The Odyssey of the "Emma Giles"

By Phillip J. Wingate '33

EARLY ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 21, 1928, Washington College was afloat on the broad waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The buildings and grounds of the College, to be sure, were still safely on the hill at the top of Washington Avenue in Chestertown, but the student body and part of the faculty were all on board the good ship *Emma Giles*, steaming toward Annapolis and a football game with St. John's College.

This trip was unique in the history of Maryland's oldest college and some background is needed to make it understandable, or even believable. First, it should be noted that football during the 1920s had a grip on college students which never has been equaled since. Football was so solidly enthroned as the king of college sports that such stars of the college gridiron as Red Grange, "The Galloping Ghost of Illinois," and the "Four Horsemen of Notre Dame" received far more newspaper space than President Calvin Coolidge. Second, football at Washington College was an enigma. The College's famous Flying Pentagon basketball team seldom lost a game, but the football team seldom won one. So when Capt. Ted Norris led his team to an unexpected victory over St. John's College in 1927, at Chestertown, the students went wild and burned to the ground the ramshackle wooden bleachers east of the football field. They really did.

Furthermore, having found a team they could defeat in football, they almost immediately began to make plans for a return game to be played at Annapolis in 1928.

These plans consisted primarily of chartering the *Emma Giles*, a steamboat, hailed as "the pride of the Chesapeake Bay fleet," when she was commissioned in 1886. But despite her ancient age, the *Emma Giles* was still a beautiful vessel in 1928. She had been given a fresh paint job in 1927 and *The Maryland Clubman*, edited by W. Wilson Wingate '17, said she was still, "Queen of the fleet," and her



In her glory days, the steamboat Emma Giles was a magnificent vessel. She plied the waters of the Chesapeake Bay from 1886 until 1939, when she was converted into a freight barge.

dining room was "a gourmet delight which featured such dishes as fried soft-shell crabs and baked shad." The *Emma Giles* truly was a fancy vessel with three decks, a circular wheelhouse on the top deck, a huge smokestack, and two paddle wheels, one on each side, with a hand-carved wood covering over each showing a beehive and flowers.

The vessel left Chestertown at 5:30 a.m. because the football game with St. John's had been scheduled for 11:30 a.m., to avoid conflict with the Navy-Duke game scheduled for 2:00 p.m. that same day. However, on this excursion, the *Emma Giles* made no arrangements to have the Washington College students dine in her dining room—for two reasons. First, the regular cost of a dinner in

this “gourmet delight” was \$1.00, a steep price in those days, and second, the vessel seldom served more than 25 people on a single trip on the bay. So, according to Elizabeth “Pet” Mace (Farver), Class of 1931, the 250 or so students, faculty, and hangers-on came supplied with a mass of sandwiches which they washed down with bottled Cokes and NeHi. If there were any hip pocket flasks, a popular item with college students in those days when Prohibition was still the law, Pet said she was not aware of them. The trip was a long one, lasting three or four hours each way, and the students who made it began to tell tales about the voyage of the *Emma Giles* almost immediately, and have never stopped talking about it since.

Joe Glackin, Class of '30, began to glamorize the voyage of the *Emma Giles* as early as 1932, when he returned to Chestertown for the College's sesquicentennial celebration. “You guys put on a good show here today, but we had a lot more fun on the *Emma Giles* in 1928. We had the whole damn student body for an all-day trip on the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay, with the glee club and a dance band to keep us entertained. It reminded me of *Showboat*, which had opened on Broadway in 1927, and was still going strong in 1928, although I can't remember the dance band playing any music from *Showboat*. I think we went in much more for Cole Porter tunes. But I do remember Dr. Titsworth telling me that Edna Ferber, who wrote the book on which the show was based, spent a week on a Chesapeake Bay steamboat which used to come up the Chester River to Chestertown, when she was getting background for the novel.”

Sixty-one years later, Colonel Ken Perrin '31 confirmed part of what Glackin said. “I don't remember any *Showboat* tunes either,” he said, “but neither do I remember any Cole Porter, even though I've always been a Cole Porter fan. As I recall it, we had mostly jazzy stuff more suited to the Charleston and jitterbug dancing.”

Carolyn Wingate (Todd) '29 often talked with members of her family about the *Emma Giles* trip and disagreed with both Glackin and Perrin on some points, but confirmed some others. “I think Joe Glackin was drunk or dreaming when he said Edna Ferber spent a week on some Chester River steamboat. Elizabeth Titsworth and I were best friends for two years, and I often visited Dr. Titsworth's house, but I never heard him speak of Edna Ferber on the Chester River, even though he did talk about seeing the Broadway show and about how she spent a month or so on the Mississippi getting background for her book. I don't think the dance band played any Cole Porter tunes on the *Emma Giles* but there was a Cole Porter set of lyrics on board that day, because Joe Alexander had given me a copy of it. One of his relatives had just seen a New Haven try-out of Porter's new show called *Paris*, and was so tickled by a song in it called 'Let's Do It,' that he got me a copy. It was a long piece and kind of risqué for those days, but mostly it was great fun.

"So I made a copy for Elizabeth Titsworth and we both had a lot of fun showing it to people on the *Emma Giles*. Several of us were laughing at this song when Professor Makosky came up and asked what was so funny and we showed him. He laughed, too, and was reading it a second time when word came over the loud speaker saying that the temperature on the Bay was a balmy 61 degrees.

"Dean Jones was sitting near us reading a newspaper when the announcement about the temperature was made, and I guess he wanted to get into the conversation going on near him that everyone seemed to be enjoying. Anyway, he startled us all by saying: 'That's funny. I'm a balmy 61 myself and I'll be 62 in about a month.'"

"We all laughed, but Dean Jones was too austere a figure to us to let him in on our conversation. Instead, Professor and the rest of us just moved up the deck a little way and he then said in a half whisper: 'I hear that all deans become slightly balmy after they have been in the job for a few years.' Some years later, after Makosky had moved to Western Maryland College and had become Dean there, I wrote him and asked him if he remembered what he had said that day on the *Emma Giles*. It was right after General MacArthur had made his famous speech to Congress in which he said, 'Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.' He wrote back and said they had a saying at Western Maryland that 'Old deans never die; they just lose their faculties.'"

Two football players of 1928 remembered the *Emma Giles* trip many years later, even though they traveled separately to Annapolis that day. One wished he had been on the boat, the other was glad he was not.

"Red" Burk, who was captain of the 1929 football team which distinguished itself by tying one game and losing all the others, talked about the trip 57 years later and said he regretted not being on the *Emma Giles* because "I heard they had a red hot poker game going on just outside the engine room, and I believe I could have cleaned up on that bunch of pantywaists on that boat that day."

Howard "Buck" Griffin, star pitcher on the 1930 baseball team that won the state championship that year, also played tackle on the football team but was glad the football team traveled separately that day: "I got my nose busted when I tackled Clem Spring, their star running back, that day, and I was glad I didn't have to spend four hours on the *Emma Giles* while every coed examined my nose."

While the men students had mixed memories of the *Emma Giles* and her famous trip, the coeds seemed to have enjoyed the trip more. Two of them in particular, "Pet" Mace (Farver) and Sarah Linthicum (Richardson), both of the Class of 1931, thought the whole day was delightful from beginning to end. As Joe Glackin said in 1932: "It may have been Washington's finest hour."

It also may have been the *Emma Giles*'s finest hour because steamboats on the Chesapeake were drawing near the end of their era in 1928. In fact, that era

The Man Behind "The Blob"

Among fans of low-budget teen horror flicks, "The Blob" is regarded as one of the most memorable of the ooze pile. The 1958 release about an alien slime that consumes every living thing in its path helped launch the career of actor Steve McQueen. But for script writer Theodore W. Simonson, who attended Washington College on the G.I. Bill and graduated in 1949, the only notable feature about the film was its theme music, composed by a young and little-known Burt Bacharach.

"The music was playful and kind of funny," said Simonson. "It took the curse of the corniness off. It was good."

Simonson, who majored in history and minored in English at the College, earned a theology degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and later joined Good News Productions, where he wrote films scripts for the earnest but cash-strapped Christian movie company. Philadelphia entrepreneur Jack H. Harris teamed up with Good News to tap into the lucrative horror movie trade and, after one script was discarded, asked Simonson to

write the story.

"The Blob" was a financial success for Harris. Simonson wrote another science fiction script—"4D Man," starring, among others, Patty Duke and Lee

Meriwether—but turned down offers to move to Hollywood. He was ghost writer on the autobiography of New York Yankees second baseman Bobby Richardson and spent years writing for newspapers.

Simonson retired to Statesville, North Carolina—he bought a house on Squeaky Tree Lane—and wrote inspirational newspaper columns. About his early career in script writing, Simonson was forthright: "I'm not trying to live it down," he said. "It's part of my life. I don't know what the lesson is. I survived 'The Blob'?" **W**



Theodore W. Simonson

ended with a bang in 1937 when the *City of Baltimore*, loaded with several hundred passengers and bound for Norfolk, Virginia, caught fire and burned to its steel hull not far from Annapolis. This disaster quickly led to new, stringent safety rules for passenger steamboats, rules so stringent that most of the steamboats could not afford to make the changes required. The *Emma Giles* was one of them, and in 1939 she was stripped of her two upper decks and converted to a freight barge. This lowly calling continued for another ten years until 1950, when what was left of the *Emma Giles* was abandoned near Curtis Bay. Still later, the former queen of the Chesapeake was moved closer to the shore, covered with fill, and made part of a bulkhead there. It was a sad ending for a beautiful lady, but as Carol Channing said in her famous song about diamonds being a girl's best friend: "Men grow cold as girls grow old, and we all lose our charms in the end."

Despite all this, the *Emma Giles* could look back on some very happy days on the Chesapeake—and particularly that bright October day of 1928 when she held in her arms the entire student body of Maryland's oldest college.

P.S. St. John's College won the football game that day by the lopsided score of 39 to 0, but as Joe Glackin said: "That didn't stop the students from dancing on the decks of the *Emma Giles* all the way home."

The Great Fraternity Battle

By Phillip J. Wingate '33

FRATERNITIES BEGAN AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE as secret societies during the early 1920s and moved into the open during the mid-1920s. There were three of them when I enrolled as a freshman in 1929 and quite naturally each claimed to be the best, so they all told freshman candidates for entrance to their elite ranks that joining them would bring great benefits to the freshmen.

"You will," they all said in substance, "make lifelong friendships which will not only help you here, but later on in the business world. Also, at all future alumni reunions at the College, the frat house will be glad to welcome you for a glorious weekend on the Hill."

Most of the freshmen, I suspect, believed as I did, that these claims and all others like them were so much hogwash. Nevertheless, I joined one and found that my brothers in it were no better and no worse than the members of the other fraternities or those who had, for one reason or another, joined no fraternity. My fraternity brothers have neither helped nor hurt me during the past half a century, and so I have always been rather neutral toward them.

However, in the matter of seeking out my old fraternity house for sleeping quarters on any return to the College, I am far from neutral. I quickly came to look upon a glorious weekend on the Hill in my old fraternity house in about the same way I would look upon two nights in the Kent County jail. This is not meant to put down the younger brothers who have followed me in the fraternity, because I have never met any of them, to my knowledge, and they may all be polished gentlemen and gifted philosophers, although I doubt it. I simply have no inclination to spend a night or two surrounded by either young hooligans or young gentlemen philosophers. I knew when I was a student that some of the brothers got drunk from time to time and made nuisances of themselves, but so did some of the brothers in the other fraternities, and so did some who stayed out of all three fraternities.



The two-story residences along Washington Avenue were once reserved for members of the faculty and administration. When fraternities arrived on campus, the buildings became fraternity row.

Greeks Arrive on Campus

During the 1920s groups of upperclassmen routinely sought the permission of the College president and Dean J. S. William Jones to establish Greek fraternities on the campus. So persistent were they that finally the dean was



delegated to visit several colleges and universities to look into their experiences with the organizations.

He was so impressed with what he saw and heard that, upon his return, he prepared a positive report. As a result, the Board approved the establishment of fraternities on campus, provided the fraternities agreed to accept certain rules. The Board's action was taken on the same day it authorized the purchase of Strong House. When Strong House and Hodson House were ready for occupancy, the Alpha Kappa fraternity (later Kappa Alpha) was authorized to occupy the former, while the latter was designated the Phi Sigma Phi house. A third fraternity, Phi Sigma Tau, was assigned to the south end of East Hall. These moves eased the housing shortage for men at this time. **W**

Phi Sigma Phi, one of the first fraternities to be openly welcomed on campus, was housed in a campus residence formerly used by faculty.

It seemed unlikely to me that this pattern of behavior had changed over the years, so it came as a surprise to me to learn, shortly after joining the Board, that there was a movement afoot to banish both fraternities and sororities from the campus. So I asked Harry Russell, who had lived all his life in Chestertown and had spent six years as a student at the College ("Some of the best years of my life were spent as a College freshman here," he often told entering classes), and had been a member of the Board for a number of years, what had happened to justify such drastic proposals.

"I'll be damned if I know," Harry replied. "I suspect that it all stems from one of George Olds's attacks of morality. George is probably the most righteous man I ever met and every now and then he wants to remake the world in his own image."

I had heard many good reports about Mr. Olds, nearly all of them saying he was a fine person and a strong supporter of the College, so I made a mild demur-
rer.

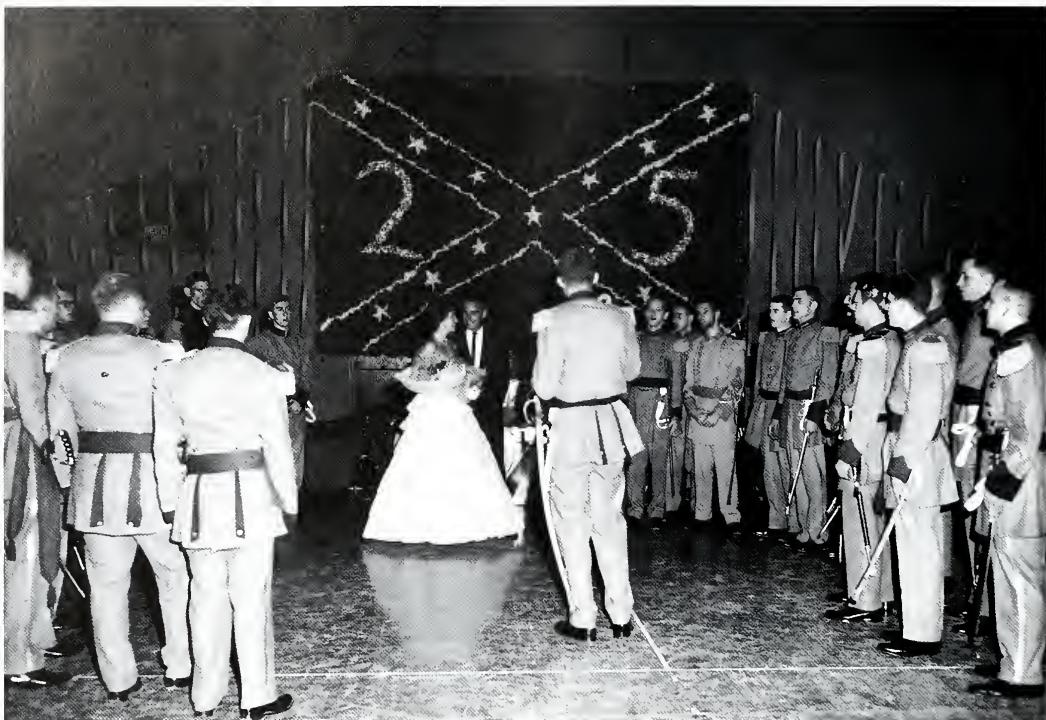
"I hear Mr. Olds is just an idealist," I said, "and I guess a few idealists are good for a College."

Harry and I broke off our conversation at that point, but, as months went by and the fraternity issue got hotter and hotter, I began to ask others about Mr. Olds and found out that he was an urbane and well-educated person who apparently did have some of the characteristics which irked Harry Russell, but Ernest Howard knew him well and told me a lot about him and thought very highly of him.

George Olds had grown up in an academic atmosphere since he was the son of a professor of mathematics at Amherst College who later became president of Amherst. After graduating from Amherst in 1913 and serving in the U.S. Navy during World War I, Mr. Olds became a high-ranking official in the Continental Oil Company of Oklahoma, from which he retired in 1946 after accumulating a substantial amount of money. He then moved to Talbot County, bought a place



Theta Chi members of the early 1940s relax in their living room on fraternity row.



Kappa Alpha fraternity, with its southern heritage proudly displayed, serenades one of its belles during the Rose Ball.

which he named "Hi Ho Farm" and began to live the life of a country gentleman with many altruistic activities. He served on the board of the Talbot County Free Library and was president of the Easton Memorial Hospital for a four-year term. He joined the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College in 1952 and served as chairman of the faculty and curriculum committee for many years. He nearly always had a rather warm and pleasant smile on his face, but, as I learned later, he was a man with deep convictions and could slash and thrust with the best of them when anyone crossed swords with him. This he accomplished always without losing his smile, although it sometimes lost its warmth. This was the case in the great battle over fraternities.

The discussions about fraternities went on for about a year after I joined the Board, getting more acrimonious all the time, before Board President Clifton Miller allowed it to come to a vote.

After one meeting of the Board I asked Harry Russell and Howard Corddry why Mr. Olds was so determined to banish the fraternities.

"I think he gets mad," Harry said, "every time he hears about one of the fraternity brothers getting drunk and busting up a piece of furniture. What he forgets is that some of the non-fraternity kids get drunk too and bust up a chair or kick in a door."

"But that was not what he talked about today," I said. "He kept saying what a heartbreak thing it was for a kid to be left out of the fraternities."

"I know," Harry replied. "That is the do-gooder in him. He wants a perfect world, made according to his own ideas of perfection. He forgets that if the fraternities are banned, they will just go underground and the ones who are left out will be just as heartbroken as they were before."

Howard Corddry had his own ideas of why Mr. Olds opposed the fraternities.

"I think he is trying to make us here as much like the Amherst he knew when he was a student," he said, "and that is all right, I guess. But times change. We are older than Amherst and I think he might do more good if he went back and tried to make Amherst more like Washington College."

When the motion to abolish fraternities finally came to a vote, Cliff Miller decided the vote should be by ballot instead of a by show of hands. He voted himself and I have always suspected that his vote was in favor of the fraternities, but he did not wish to offend Mr. Olds or President Dan Gibson, who had eloquently supported Mr. Olds. There were half a dozen or so Board members who had made it clear how they had intended to vote, and I was one of them. I thought they should be permitted to continue to exist, although I was far from being as adamant on the subject as Harry Russell and one or two of the others were.

The vote was sixteen to fifteen in favor of the fraternities. Every vote, in a sense, was the deciding one and I don't believe Mr. Olds ever forgave me or Harry Russell.

The fraternities, I suppose, breathed a sigh of relief, but the Board did not because the decision, I believe, led rather quickly to Cliff Miller's decision to retire as chairman, and he arranged to have me elected to succeed him while I was in Germany on a business trip. Mr. Olds decided to retire from the Board a year later and President Dan Gibson also retired for reasons of health.

Dr. Gibson had suffered from a mild case of Parkinson's disease for several years and his health declined sharply after the fraternity vote. When his Parkinson's

disease made it difficult for him to walk, he had no choice except to retire.

Both Mr. Olds and Dr. Gibson received honorary degrees from Washington College in 1970, and it was my duty as chairman of the Board to read the *mandamus* for their degrees.

Desegregation at Washington College

By Nate Smith

Dr. Smith, Professor of History Emeritus, retired from teaching at Washington College in 1997.

WITH NO PRETENSE to any precision about dates or exact details, this is what I recall about desegregation in the decade from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s. The Supreme Court decision in 1954, coming just six years after Harry Truman's courageous executive order ending segregation in the armed forces, struck down "separate but [allegedly] equal" as a policy for public schools. This set the agenda and provided a strong stimulus for what soon broadened into a national civil rights movement going far beyond the narrow issue of equal access to educational opportunities. The Eastern Shore, and Chestertown in particular, took note but did not seem to expect change except at a glacial pace. Washington College's president, along with his peers throughout the country, for example, was sent a questionnaire at that time by the education editor of *The New York Times*. The one response that remains with me after all these years was to the question: "When do you expect real desegregation to be effected in your region?" President Gibson first wrote: "In 100 years," then, probably after a bit of reflection, wrote: "In any case, no sooner than fifty years."

Such was the power of long-established customs in an area that must have seemed, to someone like Dr. Gibson, whose tenure had begun four years before the opening of the Chesapeake Bay bridge, very isolated and impervious to change. He naturally expected desegregation to be a slow journey along a bumpy and fitful road. As we know with the benefit of hindsight, the civil rights movement more closely resembled an avalanche, starting with small stirrings and gathering speed with constantly increasing force as it moved down the incline of nasty but in the end ineffectual resistance, thrown on the defensive by the powerful revulsion toward extreme racism evoked by wartime revelations of the policies and actions of Nazi Germany.

The first manifestation of civil rights concerns that I recall at Washington College came, probably in 1957, when town authorities pressured the College president to forbid attendance by college students at musical events taking place at the



Civil rights activist Julian Bond visited campus in the early 1960s, when Washington College's black student population was in the single digits.

Uptown Club, a nightclub frequented then by local African Americans and featuring live music with great appeal to youth of all races as well as to all who loved jazz, soul music, and rock and roll. Perhaps the prohibition was triggered by an incident at the club; in any case, the administration placed the nightspot off limits to college students as a security measure, but clearly serving the purpose of furthering the town's segregationist prejudices as well, to the dismay of many. Several members of the faculty—I recall Gerda Blumenthal, Irving Barnett and myself, perhaps there were others—demanded and were graciously granted “equal time” to respond. Since the new policy had been announced at a College assembly, the rebuttal also took the form of a College-wide gathering in what is now the Norman James Theatre. The faculty members named, and perhaps some students as well, spoke in opposition to the policy. To my knowledge, this was the College's first timid step to shake itself free from the prevailing community mores.

The next incident that I recall was initiated by the College's leader in the desegregation effort, history department chairman Bill Armstrong. He invited

Students Overcome Racial Barriers

By P. Trans Hollingsworth '75

Hollingsworth is the College's director of alumni affairs.

We may never know what circumstances led Thomas Morris '62 to be the first member of his family to go to college or to be the first black student to enroll at Washington College, but the premium he placed on education is evident.

Morris, who died in April 1995, was represented at a 1999 reunion of the College's first black alumni by his wife, Mellasenah, a concert pianist and head of the music department at James Madison University, and by his sons. Jared is a recent graduate of Howard University Law School and Miles, an elementary school student, plans to be a heart surgeon. Morris's daughter, Mellasenah Edwards, is finishing her doctoral thesis at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

By the time of his death, Morris, a mathematics teacher in Baltimore schools for almost 25 years, had been recognized many times for helping his students realize their potential. "What he learned at Washington College made a difference in his life and, in his turn, he made a difference in the many, many lives that touched his," his wife said.

Joining Morris as the first African Americans to integrate Washington College were Patricia Godbolt White '64, Dale Patterson Adams '65, and Marvin M. Smith '67.

White attended segregated schools in Norfolk until her senior year, when she became one of 17 students chosen to integrate the white high school. Today she is chairman of the science department at Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk.

"I came to Washington College with the manners and expectations I had learned in high school," she said. "I still lowered my head, as I'd been taught, so as not to make eye contact with white people. Though I had been allowed into their classrooms, I would never have presumed to join the white people at their dinner table. So the first night when I went to Hodson Hall for supper I sat at an empty table by myself. I thought it strange that students

stopped by my table. It was even stranger to my experience when these students put their trays down and joined me for dinner, and stranger still when the white girls from my dormitory sat with me in the balcony of the Chestertown movie theatre. The balcony was the 'colored section.'"

"Struggle and strength," said Dale Patterson Adams. "You will find these in proportion to each other at Washington College, in the world, and in yourselves throughout your lives. Many things that needed to be changed have changed. Many things that need to change have not yet."

As a student, Adams was a pioneer of change. She is still, as an alumna and the first black graduate to be appointed to the College's Board. Quarterly meetings of the Board's Committee on Student Affairs are followed by conferences and confidences with the students who consider her a trusted adviser and friend. Adams has also been a representative of change in her career as industrial chemist. "Scientific acumen delivered by a black woman with a northern accent is sometimes still met with coolness in the chemistry labs and corner offices of Tennessee," she said.

Thomas Morris had graduated by the time Marty Smith arrived on campus in 1963. "Pat was my mentor," Smith said, "but she kept me at arm's length. Pat and Dale told me I was going to have to make my own way as they had. So I did. I made friends with my classmates and my teammates. Friends I would keep for life."

At his graduation Smith received the Clark-Porter Medal, awarded to the student whose character and integrity have most clearly enhanced the quality of campus life. Smith went on to receive his master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Cornell University. He is an economic analyst for the Congressional Budget Office. W



Thomas Morris of Baltimore demonstrated remarkable courage and fortitude in becoming the first African American to enroll at Washington College.

John Hope Franklin to speak about his recently published work on the Reconstruction Era. This was in 1958. Armstrong sent invitations to African American teachers and ministers in the community, hoping not only to integrate the College's speaker's program but to provide a focus for black pride and greater self-assertion in the community at large. The program was controversial at higher levels in the College at least; neither the president nor the dean volunteered to provide hospitality for the speaker, who was already well-launched on one of the most illustrious scholarly careers yet achieved by a black historian. (In subsequent years, Dr. Franklin returned twice to our campus as the featured speaker, in 1968 and again in 1988 when he received the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters). The talk was a great success but community participation was relatively modest; worst of all, the black members of the audience went by long practice to the balcony. But this was the first time they had ever been expressly invited to a College event and the occasion was an auspicious beginning.

Dr. Armstrong was also responsible for the initiative that led to the desegregation of the College's student body. Having been informed by the administration in response to his pointed inquiry that Washington College was not segregated, that the issue of admitting blacks had never arisen because none had applied for admission, Armstrong resolved to put this rather transparent evasion to the test. As chairman of the Admissions Committee, he contacted the national office of the NAACP, explained our ambiguous posture, and asked that a qualified young African-American be encouraged to apply for admission. The national office forwarded the request to the principal of the local black school, asking that he identify a suitable candidate for admission. Instead, the principal turned the materials over to the College administration, which was not happy to learn that a black applicant was being



Nate Smith, who taught history at Washington College for 41 years, has been called the institution's moral anchor, a progressive visionary, and an unparalleled academic leader. He was instrumental in the push for integration during the civil rights movement.

solicited by the Admissions Committee chairman. The entire matter evolved without becoming public, but it did finally lead to a joint meeting of the Admissions Committee (minus Dr. Armstrong, who was hospitalized with an ulcer), and a group of Board members, led by the chairman, John Hessey (who was the head of Baltimore University, then a proprietary school). The Board members were most reluctant to accept the arguments of the faculty members, but they were essentially in a defensive posture. By this time (1958 or perhaps 1959 at latest), Washington College was in the rear guard among its peer institutions; one of only two in the state still segregated (plus the University of Baltimore, which was not accredited). In the end a cautious justice prevailed. The Board agreed to admit "one or two" qualified black students as "an experiment." This was clearly a fiction to bring along stubborn holdouts on the Board and so it proved to be in practice. The experimental aspect was quietly dropped and the rest, so to speak, is history.

The last episode that I recall to affect the College in the decade under discussion (into the early 1960s now) was sparked by the burgeoning national civil rights movement. When so-called Freedom Riders (busloads of college students from Swarthmore, Haverford, etc.) arrived in town, it led to a set of sometimes violent confrontations between those who marched to protest segregation in public accommodations and local elements who opposed them. A number of Washington College students and faculty were drawn into these activities on the side of the protesters (many more remained neutral or openly opposed outside pressures). At least two criminal trials were held as a result of assaults on Washington College personnel (in one case a librarian, in the other case, students) by violent defenders of the status quo. Aided, after a time, by the flare-up of nationally-publicized violent confrontations in not-too-distant Cambridge, further south on the Eastern Shore, which involved the burning of some buildings, violent assaults, calls for radical action by agitator H. Rap Brown, and dispatch of the National Guard, the town fathers in Chestertown decided that, to avoid a like conflagration here, concession was the better part of valor. As though by agreement, in rather short order restaurants were at least nominally desegregated, the movie theater no longer restricted African Americans to its balcony, and other public aspects of segregation were removed or made less visible. Public education finally began its move from token, phony integration to something approaching the real thing. In an effort to give the movement an ongoing dynamic a local chapter of the NAACP was organized, in whose early phase several members of the College community participated, and a few dedicated young college students from the north moved to town to live with black families; they spent a summer trying to organize the poorer layers of the community for self-help action. These young people found support among sympathetic members of the College faculty.

From Richmond to O'Neill: The Campus Literary Trail

By Martin Williams '75

Williams is a former vice president for development and alumni affairs at the College.

THE FRESHMAN CLASS OF 1970 found Washington College punch-drunk and hung over from the last years of the anti-war bash, full of bearded saints and scruffy mamas and the never-ending blare of rock 'n' roll. Any brick surface not covered with ivy was smeared with graffiti. We were told tales about vigils, debates, canceled classes and faculty unrest. Kids talked funny, ingested mind-numbing quantities of dope and tended to congregate moodily at various places on the campus. That year there was a tent city in front of Somerset Hall where boys and girls encamped for days on end, grinding hashish, playing their guitars, copulating, cooking food over fires.

From the quadrangle, the scent of marijuana would drift up to your room, where you might be trying to solve a math equation or read "Troilus and Cressida." You began to wonder if it was possible to get an education here. Oddly enough, just as the '60s had reached their zenith, new things were about to happen at Washington College that would provide a partial answer to that question. Among the aspiring student writers who formed a confused minority amidst the politics and drugs, the time was ripe for a young Kansan named Bob Day and his special brand of influence.

Like me, Bob was new on the scene in 1970. He had journeyed just as far: starting as a graduate of the University of Kansas, he had completed the M.F.A. program at Arkansas, written much of his first novel, *The Last Cattle Drive*, and had come "back East" to be Washington College's first creative writing teacher. He pulled into town wearing blue jeans, cowboy boots, and a hunting jacket. Beneath him, sporting Kansas plates, was a soon-to-be-beat-up red jeep. He had a Labrador retriever named Rebel, who, he told us, was professionally trained and was obviously better behaved than the students. I envied Bob his easy western image. Beside a Hermes typewriter in his office he kept a two-pound Maxwell House coffee can full of twelve-gauge shotgun shells. A vintage Winchester Model twelve-pump leaned against his bookcase. Bob wasn't just the new creative-writing guru on campus; he was the Sheriff of Literacy. And it wasn't long before he boldly launched his literary schemes.

Bob had acquainted himself with the large sums of money that could flow from the Sophie Kerr fund. He started the Broadsides series to publish and distribute student work: bright squares of red, blue, green, and yellow poetry began to paper the campus. In the spring of 1971 he, Danny Williams, and I also

The Origins of the College's May Day Celebration

It all started innocently enough, with the reading of poetry, dancing, and the drinking of wine in celebration of spring. Its foundation was Gerard Manley Hopkins, as well as in the phrases "gather ye rosebuds while ye may" and *carpe diem*. May Day—the beer-guzzling, mud-sliding nude fest that Washington College is famous for—comes from these intellectual ideas.

It was the spring semester of 1967. Bennett Lamond's freshman English class was discussing Hopkins's poem "Spring," the traditions of May Day, and how its rituals demonstrate that "Nothing is so beautiful as Spring." Caught up in the spirit, Lamond and his class decided to go beyond simply reading about May Day and to hold a celebration of their own. On the morning of May 1, the class met outside, erected a Maypole, and welcomed in spring with wine, cookies, strawberries, and dancing. When the festivities ended, the Maypole was taken down.

The following year, after classes, one student decided to welcome in spring his own way, remov-



Bennett Lamond and students celebrate the 1973 May Day.



Coeds gambol around a May Pole in the 1920s.

ing his clothes and dancing around the Maypole in the buff. The precedent had been set.

One year, a group of naked student-musicians marched down the fire lane playing instruments as another rolled by doing a handstand on his skateboard. Two girls on a motorcycle whizzed by, bare-skinned, their hair flying in the wind. The mania had spread to the entire student population.

The College became famous, or infamous, for its May Day celebrations some years later when a student named Miami ventured nude outside the campus. He was summarily arrested and transported, without his clothes, to the local jail.

Students protested his mistreatment, bringing him clothes and chanting, "Free Miami!" The protesters, though they were peaceful and fully clothed, caught the attention of the press. The story spread through the wire services regionally and made newspapers as far away as Hawaii and London, except their versions claimed that a mob of naked students had swarmed around the jail throwing rocks and demanding Miami's release. Thus the myth of wild, naked abandon began.

Still, in recent years the poetic origins of May Day have not been completely lost. Nudity is always encouraged at poetry readings held by the George Washington statue. The Literary House has sponsored a party with a live band for a more contemporary way of dancing around the Maypole. **W**

From The Elm, April 27, 1990.



In the 1970s student writers lived and communed in Richmond House, a precursor of the O'Neill Literary House.

discussed the possibility of a creative writing magazine financed by Sophie and other donations. When I got back from a summer in Mexico, Bob and Danny had agreed on a format, and Danny, as editor, published the first issue of the *Washington College Review* in October. But Bob's biggest coup that first spring was the acquisition of an old house on the southern edge of campus for the recently founded Writers Union.

Actually, Richmond House, as it was christened, was an awful dump. It was a three story, dry-rotted, white clapboard house that had been owned by a local doctor and sat, under a catalpa tree, on a little peninsula beside the psychology building and in front of the maintenance plant. In its new incarnation, the house served three purposes. First it provided an office for Bob Day, downstairs, in what must have been the doctor's receiving room. Second, it became the headquarters for the Associated Writing Programs, a national organization of graduate and undergraduate creative-writing programs. Whatever good AWP did for America seemed embodied in Kathy Walton, its executive secretary, a flinty blond from Texas who

Q&A with Mark Schulman

*Mark A. Schulman '67, seeking a small, rural college, arrived on campus from Philadelphia in 1963. Students across the country were just beginning to question the traditional *in loco parentis* authority colleges and universities administered over student bodies. At Washington, where he was editor of the student newspaper The Elm, Schulman was among the first to advocate greater student independence. President of a national public opinion and market research firm, Schulman was appointed to the College Board of Governors and Visitors in 1990.*

What was the relationship between students and the administration when you arrived at Washington College?

The relationship was distant. The administration was considered almost parental in nature. It was a very hierarchical system. On the other hand, the relationship between the students and the faculty was quite close. I had a tremendous amount of interaction with some members of the faculty. They often had us to their houses. It was a succession of fascinating people. But it was a given that you weren't supposed to develop close ties with the administration. The administration was here to govern and, frankly, we didn't have a lot of day-to-day interaction.

As we know, it was during the 1960s that students across the country began to redefine their roles and to challenge the traditional notions of collegiate authority. As editor of *The Elm*, what were your experiences on those issues?

From a newspaper editor's perspective, I was more drawn into the emerging national trends and events that emboldened students. There was the Free Speech movement at Berkeley and the Columbia Strawberry Statement. They all had something in common and that was a rebellion against authority. Administrations up to that point were the traditional authorities. It didn't occur to many of them to challenge their own thinking. At the time, this

was to me part of a more macro issue. People my age were being sent to Vietnam, being killed in Vietnam. People my age were in the forefront of the civil rights movement in the South and, in fact, a number of them were fatalities. People my age considered themselves to be the agents of change in society. We felt that if we were on the killing fields and involved in civil rights and whatever, surely we could have coed visits in dormitories. *In loco parentis* just didn't make sense. It was a relic.

Washington College was not exactly in the vanguard of those student movements?

No. We were in the rear end.

How did that affect you as the newspaper editor? Did you feel that you had an obligation to speak more forcefully on some issues?

I was attuned to what was happening nationally. I was very sympathetic to the call for social change and the role of students in bringing about that change. Now, looking back on some of the old issues of *The Elm*, I'm shocked at how outspoken I was. I spent my first semester of my junior year at American University, and I remember *The Elm* contacted me and asked me to write a story from Washington. I wrote a column that challenged the Vietnam War. When I got back to campus, I was surprised that people were unsympathetic to that thinking. In other words, they were supportive of the war or simply were unconcerned about the war.

Had student opinion changed by the time you left the College in 1967?

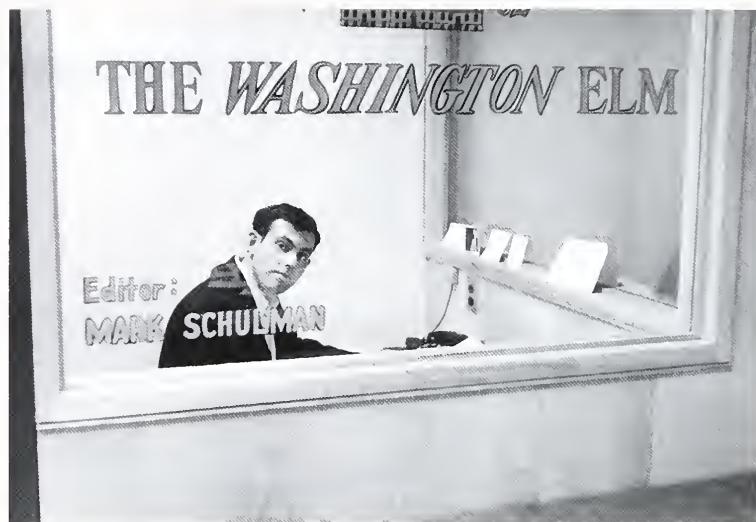
No. I recall writing an editorial critical of the FBI, which was investigating some of the student associations. There was near mutiny on *The Elm* staff. In fact, if you look at that editorial, it says it's by Mark Schulman. Editorials were never signed. That one was because other members of the staff threatened to resign because they in no way wanted to be associated with an editorial critical of J. Edgar Hoover.

Did your editorials generate many letters to the newspaper? I don't think they did. Oddly enough, several of the articles I wrote generated angry reactions from *The Kent County News*. *The Kent County News* several times wrote near vicious editorials attacking me for my editorials. My supposition was that I'd been successful. Sometimes I kept the dialogue going. I didn't let them off the hook.

Speak more about your editorials and the effect they had on campus. I wrote an editorial pointing out the lack of a student center. Hodson Hall had just been built and I questioned whether the basement could be a potential student center. I was asked to come to President Gibson's office. President Gibson was a very wonderful, mild-mannered man, but he looked at me sternly and said that the College already had plans to put in a student center there and that the newspaper should not be publishing stories without checking with the administration first.

Was he right?

Was he right? I had no intention of jeopardizing our independence. I never felt ill will toward Dr. Gibson for doing that, but it was an illustration of how college administrations felt that they should control communications flow on campus. His view was that the newspaper was the official organ for the College



As editor of the campus newspaper during the turbulent 1960s, Mark Schulman '67 was an outspoken advocate for rebellion against authority and the status quo. He spoke out against the Vietnam War, segregation, and the FBI.

and surely what's published in the College newspaper should be the approved version. It was part of that same mind set, that "we are your parents away from home."

President Gibson was a traditionalist, but he was not intractable. He often agreed with the student perspective and changed administrative policy to reflect those changes.

Yes. That's my recollection. I admired him greatly and have told many people that in my mind, Daniel Gibson was central casting's version of a college president. He was dignified, stately, intelligent and well-read and the kind of man you'd expect to be president of Washington College. **W**



With a new enclosed porch and a deck, the old Bell House was transformed into the new student writers' haven in 1985. The O'Neill Literary House, a gift of Eugene and Betty Brown Casey '47, was named for Mr. Casey's mother, Rose O'Neill.

had been a classmate of Bob's at Arkansas. Third, and most important as far as I was concerned, Richmond House became a student residence. Selections were made informally; most of us given rooms there the year it opened, 1971-1972, had been in Bob's creative writing workshop, and all of us were male.

I remember the first time I walked back home after morning classes: Richmond House looked like a big ugly saloon out on the prairie. There was a defiant Dodge City spirit about the place in its early years. Sheriff Day rode in and out on his Jeep, while Miss Kathy Walton read our stuff, bought us beer, patched up our fragile egos, and generally presided over our incessant arguments. The fact was, we weren't at all sure how to behave. To live in Richmond House was to admit that you wanted to be a writer. In other places, like the Spanish House, the students were merely expected to practice indoors. But at Richmond, there was a tacit competition going on all the time: who read the most, who wrote the best,

who could run up the biggest bill at Marty Kabat's bookstore. Many nights Bob rounded up a posse and we would ride out to the Tavern to talk about the Main Thing. Sometimes those late night "talks" were settled with our fists.

Who were these Richmond House cowboys?

Bob Burkholder, a senior and aspiring poet, who bore a striking resemblance to John Updike, lived on the third floor. Before the maintenance men constructed a new entry in the second semester, Burkholder was forced to pass through a second floor bedroom—mine—to reach the attic stairs. To those of us who had come from the squalor of a dormitory the previous year, the inconvenience was minor. Burkholder's attic room had dormer windows, wooden floors, gently sloping gallery walls—plaster, not institutional green cinder block—and once you climbed up there you enjoyed some privacy. For a variety of reasons this arrangement suited him. He had transferred to Washington in his junior year, and he was more disciplined than most of us. Mainly he was determined to get what he wanted: to win the Sophie Kerr Prize, get married (he was engaged to a girl back home in Hagerstown) and attend graduate school. He accomplished all three, though he was badly distracted once. In the spring he fell in love—not with a student, but with a very attractive woman from town. At first, he and the lady were as discreet as a Chinese poem. But pretty soon Bob must have felt his careful plans falling apart, and one night he got drunk and he told a few of us he was miserable. Somebody suggested that we write a short story about it.

I think students are more aware of where they are in the world.

During the 1950s America was an egocentric nation

in that she thought herself to be on top of the world.

Students today realize their position in the world and recognize

the different lifestyles around them. Education affords values—

values with which to confront the world no matter what

happens to it. In a time of economic crisis like this,

a lot of students need to be more aware of values

for their own sake.

Dr. Norman James, chairman of the English Department,
in an interview January 27, 1973.

Burkholder's best friend, David Beaudoin, lived with the rest of us on the "bunkhouse" floor. Dave had a thatched hut of red hair on his head and was always eligible for the Biggest Beard on Campus award. He favored blue denim duds—bright with patches—and wore tinkers' jewelry on his hands. In a pair of sturdy boots he would hike around the campus making friends. He was probably the most genuinely well-liked person in Richmond House. But he suffered all kinds of cruelties from the rest of us who lived there—we tampered with his homemade yogurt, tore up his room, made fun of his poems, pushed him around. Burkholder even slapped him one night out in front of Hodson Hall. Somehow all of our meanness didn't seem to affect Dave. I now think that he was past much of the awkwardness the rest of us felt in our self-appointed roles as writers, that what looked to us like weakness was really compassion.

Danny Williams lived across from Dave and was, fortunately, a close friend of mine. No one picked on Danny Williams: squat, mean-tempered, always at war with some girl, Danny was so strong that he literally broke down his shoes and pants walking around. He carried a full course load, including Bob Day's creative writing workshop, edited the *Review*, and was working on a long poem in blank verse. Each morning he would jump in his Volkswagen and motor the 200 feet to Smith Hall for class. "Saves time," he said.

Much of Danny's time was spent on the *Review*. The first issues were printed, front and back, in exceedingly small type on a stiff yellow sheet the size of a political poster. The whole layout resembled a giant aerial photo reduced to microfiche. There was always the urge to fill the *Review* with our own stuff, to make it a Richmond House brew. To his credit, Danny gathered suggestions from students (what about an article on how to import dope from Katmandu?) and faculty (what about an essay on opera?), held editorial meetings, bounced ideas off Bob Day, kept his options open. Gradually it was decided that the type must get larger, the articles less long and tedious. Bob talked the Sophie Kerr Committee into giving us extra money. By spring we had agreed that the following year we would have a new format and a regular newspaper printing.

At spring break, Danny announced that instead of going home to Philadelphia, he would stay on in Richmond House; writers needed time to write, and he was still grappling with his long poem. When we returned from break, however, we found that Danny had succumbed to ennui. The absence of all pressures had paralyzed him. So bad were his boredom and loneliness that he had purchased a model at the drugstore—one of those plastic German tiger tanks that you glue together in thirty-nine steps. Years later, when I had left the lawyer's office after my divorce, I bought a model P-51 airplane. It helped.

My room was next to Danny's and we shared the glassed-in porch that ran the length of the second floor. Only a sophomore, I was the youngest resident of Richmond House, and I relished my place among grown-ups and my freedom



Above, relaxing on the porch of the O'Neill Literary House are, from left to right, authors John Barth and William Warner, Literary House Director Bob Day, and Washington Post book critic Michael Dirda.

from dormitory life. If I wanted a new book to read, I could drop downstairs and browse through Bob Day's office; if I were hungry at dawn, I could fry up a hamburger. I was even allowed to keep a pet—a black mutt with the not very original name of Puppy Dog. My room itself had an atmosphere of almost visceral filthiness. One of the perks of my student-aid job in maintenance was access to discarded furniture from around the campus. The smell of my mildewed leather sorority sofa blended with the odor of dirty clothes and dog. Among a rainbow of Broadsides and books on my Bunting library table, the Coke cups that I used for ashtrays were traps for flies. Against one wall I had lashed two dormitory beds together into a not-too-subtle double.



Norman James taught English literature at the College for twenty-five years. He was known for his wit and vivacity, and his powerful voice. He advocated adding the fine arts to the curriculum and founded and directed the humanities program.



This bed had a big fault running down the middle, and everyone made hideous metaphorical fun of it.

There were, of course, other than literary matters to learn in your room at Richmond House. One night I brought a very special girl to mine—someone I had met at the funeral of Peter Chekemain, a good friend who died in the fall of '72 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. A few weeks before his death, Peter had moved onto our porch—he needed a place because he'd recently split up with his regular live-in girlfriend. Like Romeo, Peter was already infatuated with a new girl he'd just met in Jersey. Aside from her looks, what impressed Peter about her was that on their first night together she had presented him at dawn

with a man's cashmere sweater. Now here she was in my room, come to collect a dreary memento, for the sweater still hung in my closet. As she settled herself on my bed—glancing a bit uneasily at a gooey Venus-fly cup—I felt as though I'd found a lovely sailing sloop aground in my own dank marsh. From beneath the bed Puppy Dog thumped her tail approvingly. While we sat holding hands (should I shuck my loafers, or maybe that would be too obvious?), I heard how she had met Peter, about his last glorious night with her at Hood College, about how she wanted to become a fashion model—did I read *Jogue*? Everything that I shall ever know about the lure of fashion, and the probable causes of Peter's death, I learned that night. Listening to this beautiful but vapid girl, wanting her very much, but not wanting her, I had the odd sense of inheriting a shameful truth about myself, secondhand. Pretty soon my feet fell asleep.

Probably a few people around campus wished that I was so easily silenced. There was a weighty atmosphere of conflict in those days; both young and old were trying to shoulder the Big Load. Such effort produced a lot of posturing and some really awful writing, some of the worst of which was my own. It seemed to me then that an encyclopedic knowledge, of subject as well as style, was required to write well. Lacking both, I soon got frustrated. The only writing I did that was halfway intelligible was in scathing reviews of my fellow students when they published a yearbook or put on a play. In this way I learned the real origin and worth of criticism.

Of course, Richmond House was more than just those of us who lived there. Besides the famous and not-so-famous writers who would drop by after their readings at the College, various people were pulled into its orbit. One winter a flashy English professor named Bob Neill—whose eventual fight for tenure drew the support of many of us—came over and took an office beside Bob Day.

A new student writer appeared in a muscle: Bob King, B.B. as we called him, was a war veteran and wrote cynical tales about Vietnam. In 1971 we first met a shy, gangly girl named Sarah Gearhart, who left the following year for the University of London and then returned to edit the *Review*. Angelo, a sort of street saint who would later die on a climbing trip in the mountains, used to pop in and ask us when we were going to publish something meaningful. I met my first wife, Pat Mauser, when she showed up one day to take a student job working for the Associated Writing Programs with Kathy Walton. I could mention numerous others, whose only anonymous fault was that they were someone else's friends.

In 1973-74, the authorities at Washington College were kind enough to let me take my senior year abroad at Manchester College, Oxford. Upon my return, I lacked two credits needed for my B.A. degree, so I enrolled for the fall semester

and rented a house on High Street. In the year that I was away both Richmond House and I had changed. There were women residents in the house now and I wistfully noticed their female handiwork: curtains lined the windows; there was crockery and lace in the kitchen; gone were the derelict sofas on the front porch where we drank beer and railed at the passersby. The yard-full of fast cars was replaced by a bicycle rack. The quality of the *Review* was clearly improved and there were one or two writers around Richmond House who were quietly superior to the ranch hands of two years before. My own comportment had improved, too, after a year at genteel Oxford ("the ultimate Back East," I enthused to Bob Day), but I missed the bravado of my old buddies. Danny and Burkholder, B.B. and Dave were all gone now, off to Europe or graduate writing programs. Here I was after five years, the longest living self-proclaimed student writer in the history of Washington College. Quite clearly I had outlasted my time. Like green fruit, my feelings about Richmond House tasted immature and I wished I could get out of town.

I graduated, got out of town, got a job, got older, and thought very little about Richmond House. One day I received a note typed on Washington College stationery from Kathy Wagner, asking if I would like to attend the dedication of the letterpress room at the new O'Neill Literary House. At the bottom was a penned message from Bob Day, who suggested that I was not yet forgotten around the College. At first I didn't dare reply, and the letter sat on my desk at work among the things that I read now for a living. After twelve years it felt a bit awkward to drop by Chestertown and answer all those questions about where I had been, what I was doing—did I still write? Married with children, up to my neck in business, I was finally now fully in the grasp of the real world, which had waited so long to catch me. Not until the first fall storm chased away the summer heat, and I recalled what it was like, on a cool October morning, dawdling on your way to class, did I re-read the letter and decide to go back.

At the Literary House party, I learned that Richmond House had been torn down in 1982, the lot left vacant, with only the old catalpa tree still standing. Bob Day had carted off much of the memorabilia and thus created a shrine: fifteen years of college literary life compressed into a remarkable array of posters and photos in every room of the new O'Neill House—the scaffolding of a tradition now in place. Here the famous jostled for space on the walls with student writers. Among the playbills and old announcements of poetry readings, I spotted, like Most Wanted posters, several faded Broadside poems by Danny and Burkholder—and even, I think, an old *Review* with my own name.

To Tell the Truth

By Douglas Hanks III

Hanks was the media relations associate for Washington College during 1998-99 when this story first appeared in the *Washington College Magazine*.

Illustrations by Marcy Dunn Ramsey

I'M A ROOKIE HERE, with barely a year of Washington College employment behind me. When I first arrived at this centuries-old campus, people were slinging all sorts of wild stories my way, tall tales meant to impress a wide-eyed stranger intimidated by all the history surrounding him.

Stories like the audacious boast that little Washington College was the first college founded in the new United States of America. Or the myth that the school actually gives something like \$40,000 to a graduating senior just for writing well—cash money the winners are free to spend at will, be it on their first novel or on Red 17. My favorite was the myth of students—male and female—stripping away their clothes every May 1 and streaking across campus, a wildly poetic ritual celebrating spring.

Of course, fables like those—

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Doug, those things aren't myths. They're all true.

Really? Even the naked part?

Yes, although we certainly don't condone that sort of behavior.

No, of course we don't. So where was I last year on the first of May?

You were fishing.

Oh, I see. Well, I'm writing a note to make sure I am in the office this May 1, just so I can be here to help condemn that sort of thing.

But as I was saying, myths are a natural part of the collegiate landscape, as common as brick walks. Few institutions lend themselves to myth-making like colleges and universities. The combination of centuries' worth of history, a powerful nostalgia for the campus's good old days, and a core population that churns through itself every four years produces an oral history filled with mysterious tales of hazy origins.

Thus across the country we hear stories of obscure policies granting students 4.0s for the semester following a roommate's suicide, eccentric alumni who fund endowments to keep the cafeteria stocked with ice cream, and regulations on how long students must wait for a tardy instructor based on the professor's rank.

The above examples are all false, by the way—tall tales that have wormed their way into the mythology of campuses across the country. The *Washington College Magazine* has mustered all its investigative resources and set out to exam-

ine a few legends closer to home, stories that have been told, retold, then told again for decades, yet never scrutinized.

Until now.

Party Legends

THE STORY: Washington College used to be such a wild oasis of debauchery *Playboy* once named it one of the 10 biggest party schools in the country.

THEVERDICT: False.

THE SKINNY: Visit any campus in the country and talk to some students. Ask them about the social scene on campus. This is what you'll hear:

STUDENT: "Things are so lame now. Back in the old days, this place was wild. Every weekend they'd roll out kegs onto the front lawn, and professors would bring pitchers of martinis to class, and, dude, even the library had a draft system. You used to be able to buy pitchers while you studied, and you could charge it to your parents."

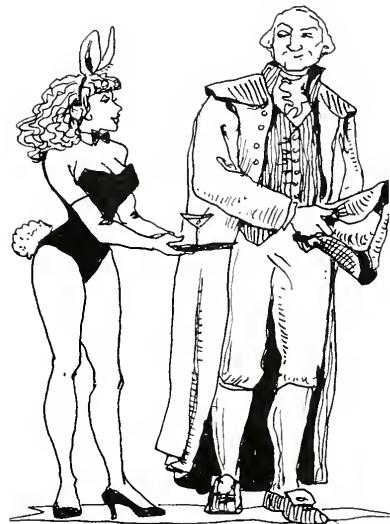
YOU: "And?"

STUDENT: "Oh, yeah. I think back in like 1982 or something, *Playboy* said we were the top party school in the country!"

In fact, *Playboy* rarely ranks party schools, though it has now and again. But from the number of schools where students claim the ranking, you would think the lists were published weekly.

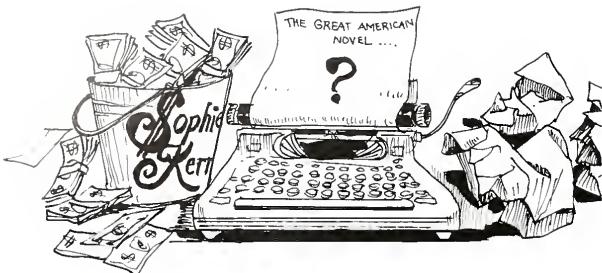
To debunk this myth, we were forced to delve deeply into research, scrutinizing back issues and even signing up for a month's subscription to *Playboy Online* at the magazine's expense, all for the sake of investigating this matter.

And the research paid off. For after poring through back issues, scrolling through cover after cover posted on the Internet, prowling through chat rooms looking for *Playboy* experts, and exploring other men's magazines for similar rankings, we called *Playboy* itself and talked to someone named Candi or Bambi who checked the past lists and said Washington College wasn't on them.



Sophie's Curse

THE STORY: Winners of the Sophie Kerr Prize are doomed to a life of literary lameness, toiling away in obscurity and never approaching the promise bestowed upon them by winning the nation's largest writing prize for undergraduates.



THEVERDICT: False.

THE SKINNY: First of all, there aren't any Sophie Prize recipients on food stamps. A look at 30 years' worth of winners makes a certain academic flack a little green with envy. There's the big-time public relations executive from '74, the surgeon from '69, the electronic marketing manager for MacMillan from '86.

"It's madness! When you think of the kids who won the prize, they haven't been cursed whatsoever," bellows Professor Robert Day, the former di-

rector of the O'Neill Literary House who now teaches English at the College.

Day and others point to a number of Sophie winners who have gone on to thrive in a "literary life," including: Harvey Roland "Mike" Hammer, the '90 winner who founded the prestigious literary magazine, *The Plum Review*; Robert Burkholder, the respected English professor at Penn State who won the prize in '72; William L. Thompson, the '70 winner who followed a successful journalism career to *The (Baltimore) Sun*, published a book, and directed the Washington College Literary House Press; Ellen Beardsley, the '81 winner who now reviews books and writes poetry from her home in Cork, Ireland; William Bowie, the published poet and '75 winner; Peter Turchi, the published novelist from '82 who now directs the MFA program at Warren Wilson College.

To be sure, though, none of the winners has approached the fame or renown of the Sophie Kerr Prize itself. There have been no Nobels, Pulitzers, or bestsellers in the bunch.

Some wonder if the Prize—and all the attention, promise, and, yes, money, that goes with it—serves as too lofty a benchmark with which to measure a young person's successes.

"It's rather damning, winning this huge prize," English Department Chairman Richard Gillin said. Some winners "feel they have disappointed people here because they haven't done anything grand or spectacular. But at 21 or 22 years old, no one expects that."

Literary House Director Robert Mooney has said the award teaches an important lesson—the long odds against literary prominence, no matter the writer.

Adds Jef Frank, a contender for last year's prize: "They say it's a curse because no one's writing the Number One *New York Times* bestseller. But how many people want to do that?"

The Far Side of Believability

THE STORY: Oddball cartoonist Gary Larson, creator of "The Far Side," attended Washington College as an undergraduate.

THEVERDICT: False.

THE SKINNY: Larson, 48, attended Washington State University, not Washington College, which probably accounts for how this myth got started. Washington College can claim some famous entertainers as alumni, including *Terminator* heroine (and James Cameron ex) Linda Hamilton and *Just Shoot Me* star Laura San Giacomo. But not Larson, a native of Tacoma, WA, who spent his entire college career at Washington State, according to a spokeswoman there.

The folks at Larson's marketing company out in Seattle confirmed it.

"I'm afraid you're going to have to debunk that one," said Kim Lindbeck of FarWorks, who asked Larson if he ever went to Washington College.

"He said no."

A Slick Swap?

THE STORY: The hit movie *City Slickers* was actually a pirated version of Washington College Professor Bob Day's novel *The Last Cattle Drive*.

THEVERDICT: Inconclusive.

THE SKINNY: Bob Day did indeed write a novel called *The Last Cattle Drive* with a plot vaguely similar to *City Slickers*. And a production company purchased the movie rights to that novel from Day. According to Day, the production company told him Billy Crystal, who helped pen *City Slickers*, once inquired about the rights to *The Last Cattle Drive* but never pursued the project.

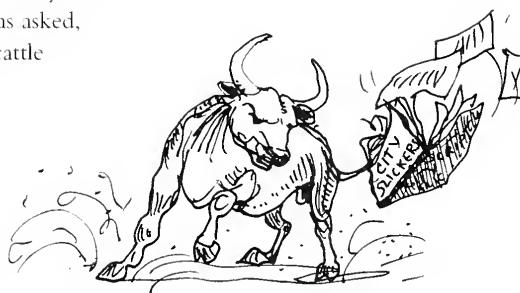
EDITOR'S NOTE: Doug, please remember that Billy Crystal is very rich and has more lawyers than Washington College has psychology majors.

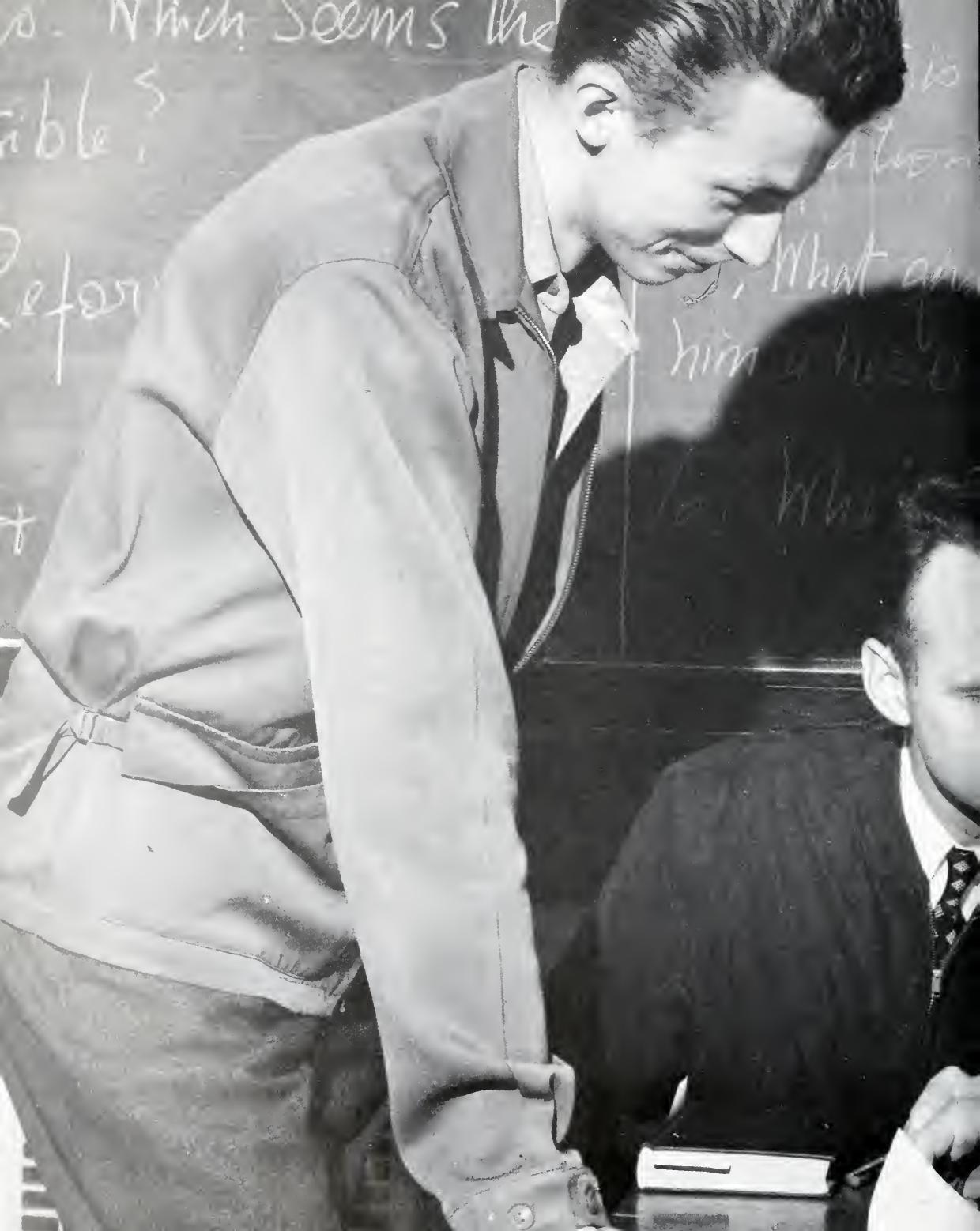
I know, that's why I'm just going to end the piece with this:

As Professor Day recalls, he read an interview with Crystal in a major newsmagazine in which the actor/writer was asked, "How did you ever come up with the idea of driving cattle through the desert?"

"And Crystal said, 'I just woke up in the middle of the night with it!'"

Day paused to let Crystal's statement sink in, then offered a skeptical exclamation that—and this could just be a coincidence—also refers to cattle. **[W]**





Faculty Portraits



Teachers, Mentors, Friends

Throughout Washington College's long history, one element has remained constant—a faculty distinguished by its scholarship, commitment to students, and dedication to the noblest profession of teaching. Washington College professors have proven to be teachers, mentors, and friends with an uncanny ability to recognize and encourage a student's potential for success. Long after graduation, alumni remember those professors with the power to affect lives. Just a few of them are pictured on the following pages.

Overleaf: Dr. Nicholas Newlin, the first Ernest A. Howard Professor of English Literature (seated), exemplified the spirit of the liberal arts tradition. During his twenty-three-year career (1950-1973), Newlin championed civilized action and independent thinking.



Norman James, who succeeded Nick Newlin as the Ernest A. Howard Professor of English Literature, called for the establishment of fine arts programs at WC and founded and directed the humanities program. Of all his contributions, he was most proud of his effort to integrate the student body.



Margaret W. Horsley, who taught sociology and anthropology for thirty years, was ahead of her time in understanding women's issues and the role of women in academia. She served as Dean of Women from 1960 until 1965, when she was named chair of her department.



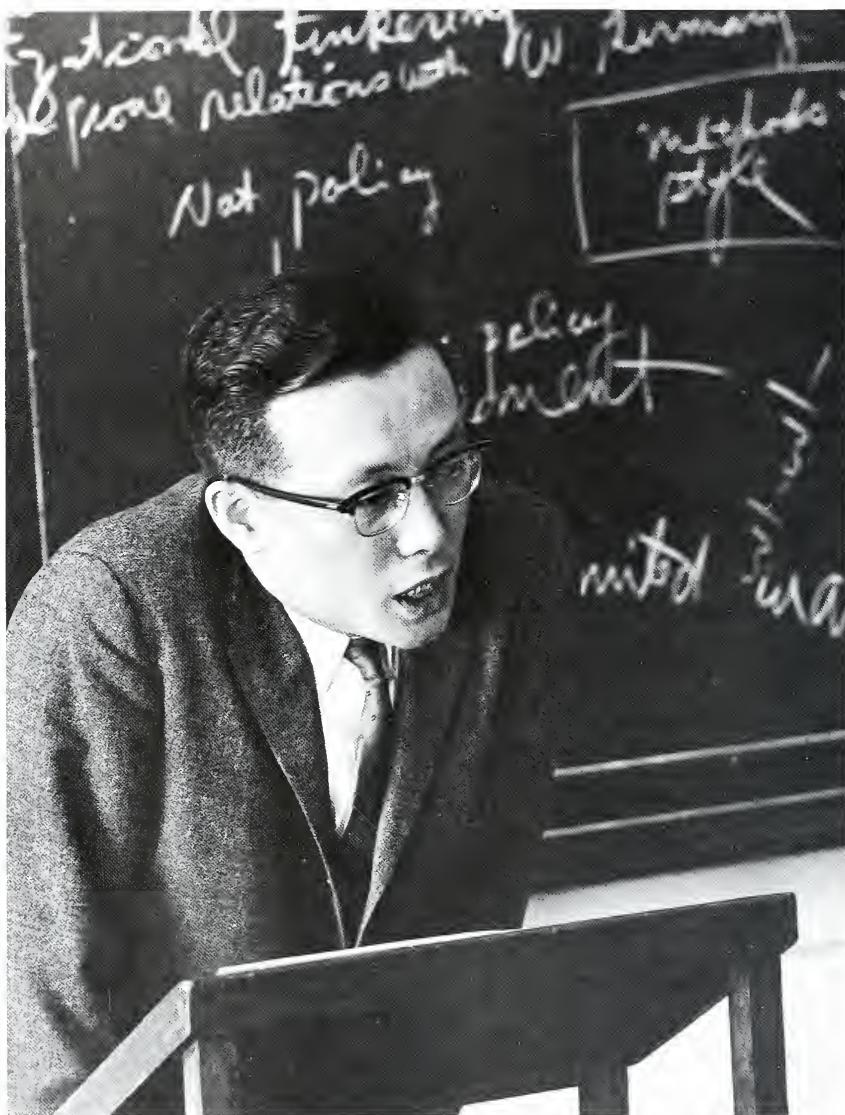
Not only was Richard Brown a fine mathematician and teacher, he was fanatic about opera. His generosity with extra opera tickets—he often attended twice a week—fueled an appreciation for the musical genre among students, faculty, and staff.



Nate Smith, professor of history, four-time acting dean, and musician, was always driven by his strong sense of ethics. During forty-one years of teaching and administration he was the school's moral anchor, a progressive visionary, and an unparalleled academic leader.



Nancy Tatum, who taught Shakespeare for thirty-eight years, believed in the power of great literature to speak to students and encouraged the college community to strive for a higher standard of writing and thinking.



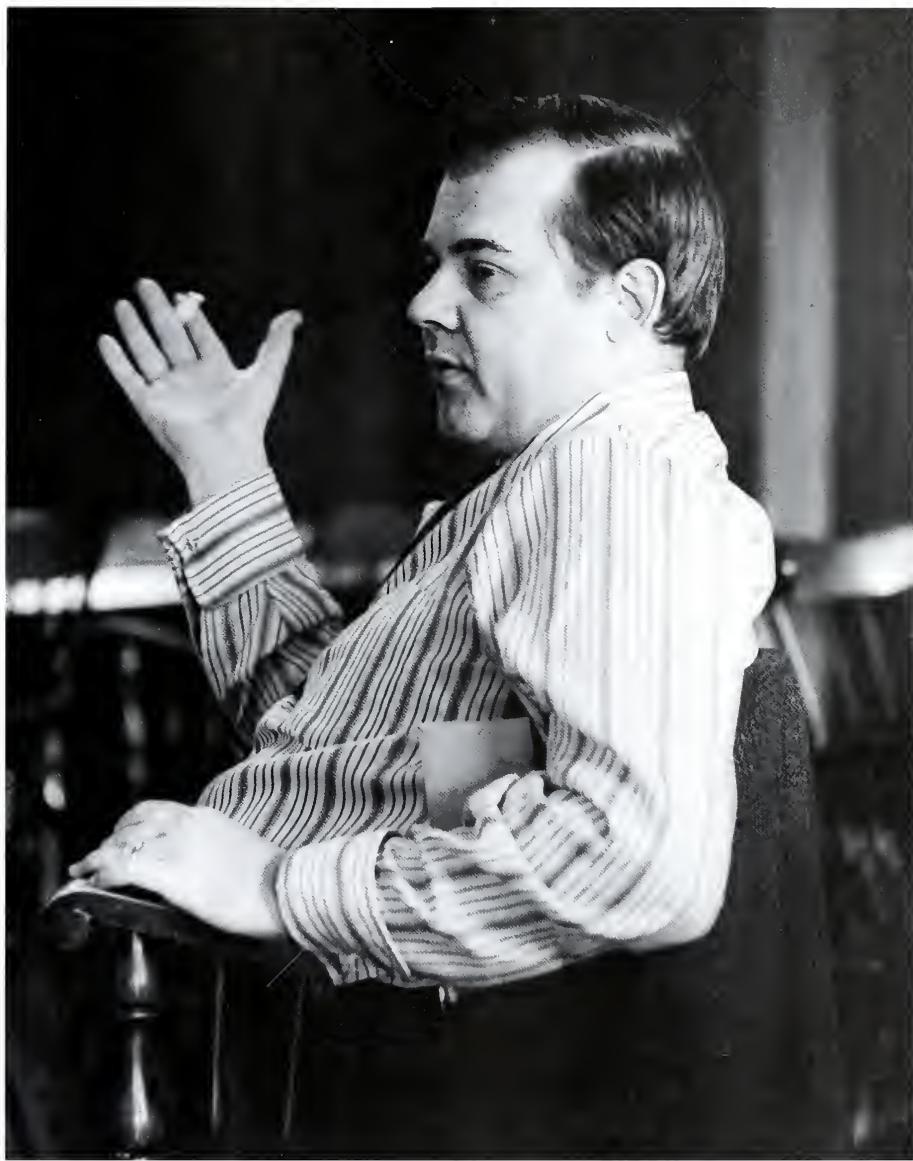
Tai Sung An was instrumental in establishing the department of political science and international studies in 1968, and served for many years as the department's first chair. A respected scholar, a prolific writer, and an engaging and dedicated teacher for thirty-five years, An helped to shape some of the finest young political scientists working today.



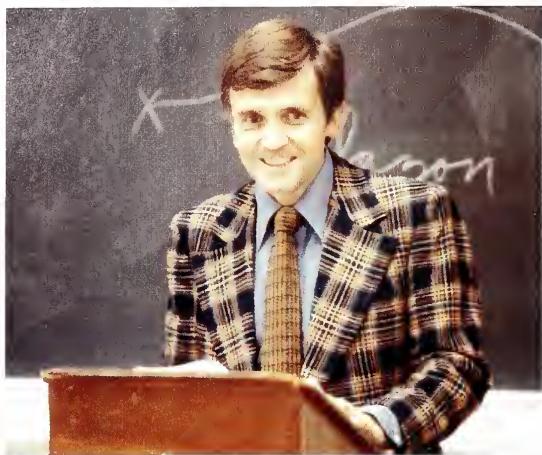
Frank Creegan has never lost the enthusiasm and willingness of a young tenure-track professor. Since 1967, he has remained committed to the idea that the essence of excellence in the liberal arts tradition lies in teaching.



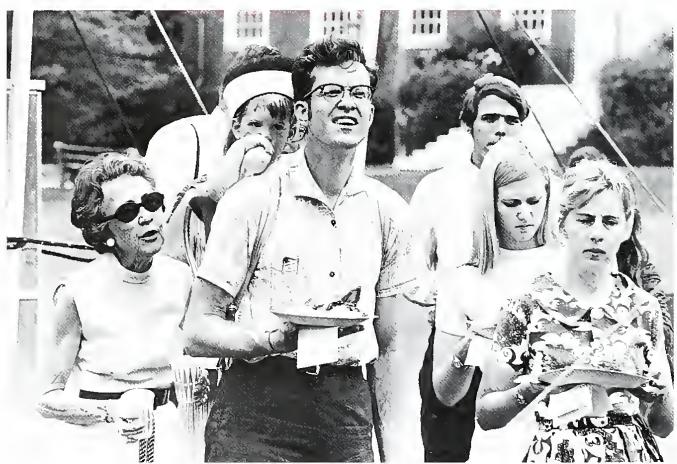
Peter Tapke, pictured with Fulbright Award winner Mariam Hubschman '67, directed the Fulbright program, established the William James Forum, and launched the College's rowing program. He taught philosophy and religion for thirty-five years.



Robert Fallaw's authoritative command of American history, his breadth of knowledge, and his talent for storytelling elevate his classes to the "not to be missed" list. He has been teaching at Washington College since 1970.



Richard Gillin's hero is the Romantic poet Lord Byron, yet his true passion is teaching. Gillin has brought British literature to life in the classroom since 1973, and recently launched a study abroad program in Wordsworth's Lake District.



Al Briggs, pictured at a campus picnic with his family, is a brilliant mathematician whose passion for mathematics is evident in his teaching. Since 1967, he has challenged Washington College students to understand the power and beauty of the subject.



Ermon Foster devoted forty-four years to Washington College. He taught education and psychology, served briefly as Director of Admissions, and was Registrar from 1950 until his retirement in 1986. As Grand Marshal, he presided over 128 academic ceremonies.



Garry Clarke, professor of music who served as dean and as acting president of the College, told colleagues in 1981: "Brilliant teaching must be expected." Since the start of his career here in 1968, students of Garry Clarke—pianist, composer, and author—have gotten nothing less.



Robert Anderson, who joined the College's philosophy department in 1976, is a perennial favorite with students. Anderson is known for his animated classroom presence, his ability to transform any text into passionate and compelling discussion, and his brilliant sense of humor.

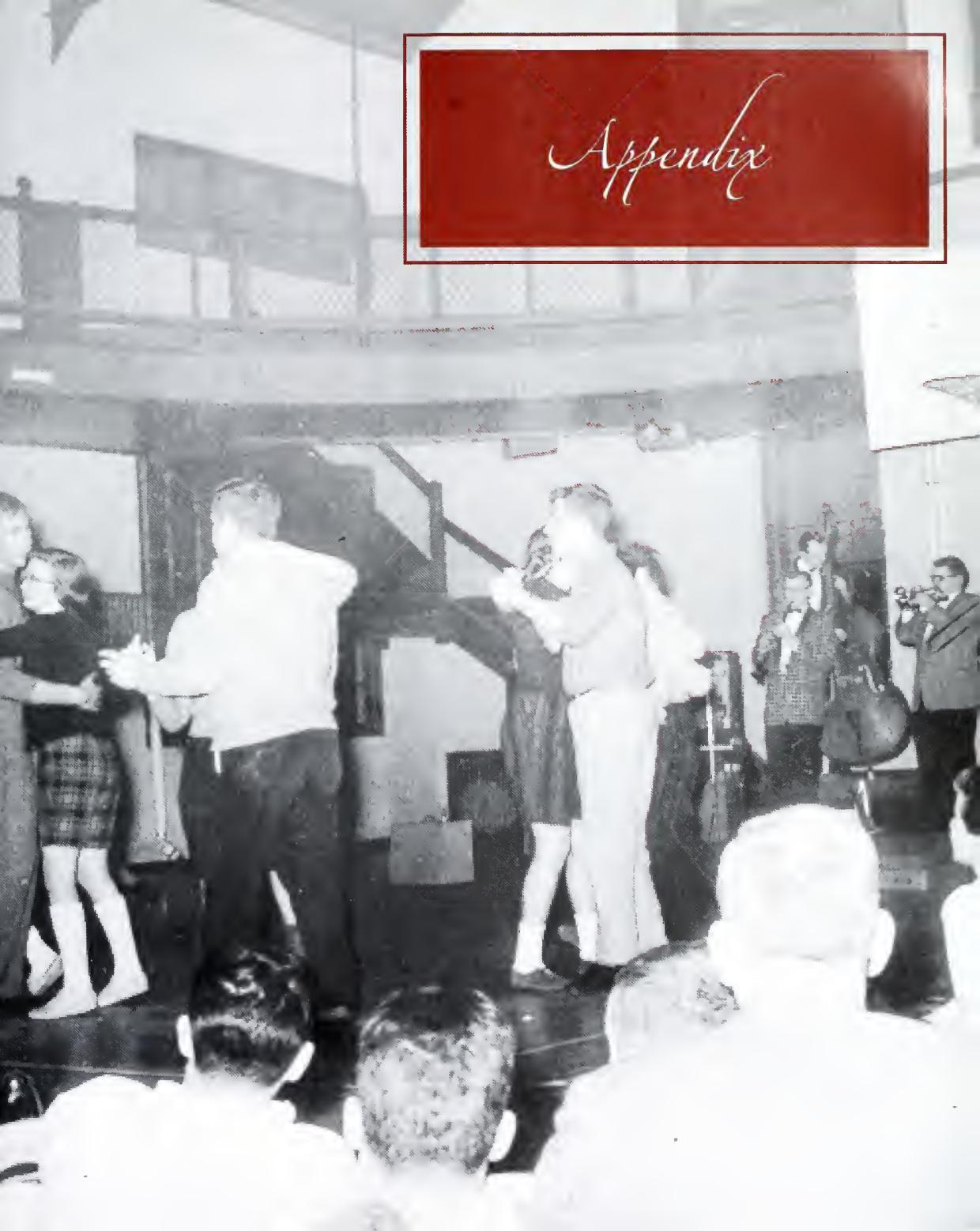


Patricia Horne, who has taught sociology at Washington College since 1964, is driven by a sense of fairness and a strong social consciousness. Her students admire her for asking the important questions, for believing in them, and for challenging them to excel.



Timothy Maloney, a fine stage actor and director who developed the drama department from its infancy always put the education of his students ahead of the pressure to please audiences. He has taught at Washington College since 1966.

Appendix



George Washington's Honorary Degree

The honorary Doctor of Laws degree was presented to George Washington in New York City on June 24, 1789. The text at right is translated from Latin. The original diploma is in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

AS TO THAT END academic degrees were prudently instituted by our ancestors, that public honors might be awarded to men who are deserving of them because of eminence in piety, government and letters; and since it is abundantly evident to us and indeed to all, that George Washington, President of the United States of America, has earned the gratitude of the entire human race not only on account of his piety, service to the State, and ability in letters; but also in war and in peace, having obtained the common acclaim of all, has shown himself in serious crises to be an outstanding citizen, a prosperous avenger of liberty, and a most loving father of his country, we therefore (by virtue of the authority vested in us, etc.)

We, the Principal and Faculty of Washington College in the State of Maryland in the United States of America, to all men to whom these Presents may come, Greeting.

Whereas, Academic Degrees were wisely established by our Ancestors to the end that public Honors might be accorded to those Men who have best served Religion, Letters and the State, and whereas it has been made manifest to us and to all men that George Washington, President of the United States of America, has always and well served not only Religion, Letters and the State and even the whole Human Race, but in War as well as in Peace being most eager for the common safety amidst the gravest crisis, has proved himself a most eminent Citizen, a most successful Defender of Liberty, and a most fond father of his Country. We, therefore, influenced by the foregoing considerations in accordance with the express Mandate of the Visitors and Governors of this College (by the unanimous vote of all) at the Public Commencement held on the 24th day of June, 1789, have pronounced and declared this same eminent and most distinguished Man Doctor of Civil and Canon Law and beg him by virtue of this

Diploma to enjoy among his fellow Washingtonians all the Rights, Privileges and Honors belonging to that Decree.

In witness of which Thing we have affixed our Names and the public Seal of the College to this Diploma.

William Smith, S.T.D., Principal

Colin Ferguson, D.D., Professor of Languages and of Mathematics

Peregrine Letherbuy, Professor of Law, pro tem

Samuel Armor, Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy

Samuel Keene, Professor of English and of Oratory

To the Corporation of Visitors and Governors and the Principal and Faculty of Professors of Washington College in the State of Maryland.

Gentlemen:

Your very affectionate Address, and the honorary Testimony to your regard which accompanied it, call forth my grateful acknowledgment.

A recollection of past events, and the happy termination of our glorious struggle for the establishment of the rights of Man cannot fail to inspire every feeling heart with veneration and gratitude toward the Great Ruler of Events, who has so manifestly interposed in our behalf.

Among the numerous blessings which are attendant upon Peace, and as one whose consequences are of the most important and extensive kind, may be reckoned the prosperity of Colleges and Seminaries of Learning.

As, in civilized societies, the welfare of the state and happiness of the people are advanced or retarded, in proportion as the morals and education of the youth are attended to; I cannot forbear, on the occasion, to express the satisfaction which I feel on seeing the increase of our seminaries of learning through this extensive country, and the general wish which seems to prevail for establishing and maintaining these valuable institutions.

It affords me peculiar pleasure to know that the Seat of Learning under your direction hath attained to such proficiency in the Sciences since the Peace; and I sincerely pray the great Author of the Universe may smile upon the Institution, and make it an extensive blessing to this country.

George Washington
New York, July 11, 1789

A letter-book copy of George Washington's response to receipt of the honorary degree is in the Washington collection of the Library of Congress.

Honorary Degrees Granted by Washington College

1785-1999

1785	John Andrews, D.D.	1901	James Thomas Lassell, D.D.	1910	William Royal Stokes, D.Sc.
	John Carroll, D.D.		Martin Bates Stephens, Ph.D.		Francis Valk, D.Sc.
	Thomas John Claggett, D.D.				
	Samuel Keene, D.D.	1906	Andrew Hunter Boyd, LL.D.	1911	Marshall Langston Price, M.Sc.
	William Thomson, D.D.		William Henry Hall, A.M.		
	William West, D.D.		Henry Brainard Martin, D.D.		
1787	Cohn Ferguson, D.D.	1907	William Forbes Adams, LL.D.	1912	John Sharshall Grasty, D.Sc.
			Joseph Sweetman Ames, LL.D.		Frederick Joseph Kinsman, LL.D.
1789	John Bowie, D.D.		George Lincoln Burr, LL.D.		
	George Washington, LL.D.		Brother Denis, LL.D.		
1814	John Emory, D.D.		George Hutchinson Denny, LL.D.		
			Thomas Ireland Elliott, LL.D.		
1857	Franklin Lafayette Knight, D.D.		John David Epes, Litt.D.	1913	John Franklin Carey, D.D.
			James Frazer, LL.D.		Francis Trevelyn Miller, Litt.D.
1894	William Mumford, D.D.		Hiram W. Kellogg, LL.D.		Charles Laban Pardee, D.D.
	Stephen C. Roberts, D.D.		William Ware Kimball, D.D.		
	Alfred Smith, D.D.		Thomas Hamilton Lewis, LL.D.		
1895	Walter Raleigh Graham, D.D.		Howard McClenahan, LL.D.	1914	Nicholas Charles Burke, LL.D.
	George C. Sutton, D.D.		James Middleton Munroe, LL.D.		Christian Gauss, Litt.D.
	Robert Watt, D.D.		Josiah Harriman Penniman, LL.D.		
1896	James Black Merritt, D.D.		Kurt Seyferth, LL.D.	1915	
	Oliver Hugh Murphy, D.D.		George Matthews Sharp, LL.D.		Harvey Grant Beck, D.Sc.
1898	David Lee Greenfield, D.D.		Richard William Sylvester, LL.D.		Clarence Griffin Child, LL.D.
	James Roy Micou, Ph.D.		William Rudulph Smuth, LL.D.		
1900	Samuel Joseph Smith, D.D.		William Sidney Thayer, LL.D.	1917	Charles Fuller Harley, LL.D.
			Thaddeus Peter Thomas, LL.D.		Sewell Stanley Hepburn, D.D.
		1908			William Luke Marbury, LL.D.
			Ward Brinton, A.M.		
			James Edward Carroll, Ped.D.	1918	
			Harry Jump Hopkins, A.M.		J.S. William Jones, D.Sc.
			Clarence Warwick Perkins, A.M.		Sewell Norris Pilchard, D.D.
			Edward Robins Rich, D.D.		
		1909		1919	
			John Wesley Chambers, D.Sc.		V. Bernard Siems, M.Sc.
			Gustav Gruener, Litt.D.		
			Samuel Towner Rogers, LL.D.		

1921	1930	1940
Alexander Griswold Cummins, D.D.	Phillips Lee Goldsborough, LL.D.	Solomon Scott Beck, LL.D.
Joseph Wilson Sutton, D.D.	James Merritt Hepbron, LL.D.	Isaiah Bowman, LL.D.
Arthur Smith Walls, D.D.	Leonard Bayard Smith, D.D.	H.A.B. Dunning, D.Sc.
	1931	Julio Del Toro, Litt.D.
1922	Samuel King Dennis, LL.D.	
William Dunbar Gould, D.D.	Edgar Clark Fontaine, Litt.D.	1942
George C. Graham, D.D.	William Leonard Murphy, D.D.	Mary Adele France, Litt.D.
Clarence Hodson, LL.D.	Lewis Radcliffe, D.Sc.	Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, LL.D.
Ralph V.D. Magoffin, LL.D.		Sophie Kerr Underwood, Litt.D.
Luther E. Poole, D.D.	1932	
Eugene A. Robinson, D.D.	Harry Vance Holloway, LL.D.	1943
	Disston Wright Jacobs, D.D.	Arthur Howard Brice, LL.D.
1923	John Bassett Moore, LL.D.	John Eisele Davis, D.Sc.
Morris Lewis Clothier, LL.D.	Friedrich W. von Prittwitz, LL.D.	Dudley George Roe, LL.D.
James E. Ellegood, LL.D.		
Enoch Barton Garey, LL.D.	1933	1944
Thomas Frederick Garey, LL.D.	Howard Atwood Kelly, LL.D.	Frances Alice Clements, Litt.D.
Walter Edwin Gunby, D.D.	Samuel Robert MacEwan, D.D.	Emmet Francis Hitch, D.Sc.
Albert Cabell Ritchie, LL.D.	William Henry Meese, LL.D.	
Rubert Bowdon Mathews, D.D.	Franklin Delano Roosevelt, LL.D.	1946
Reginald H. Smith, LL.D.	Paul Emerson Titsworth, LL.D.	Harry S Truman, LL.D.
	Raymond Walters, Litt.D.	
1924	1934	1947
Wilmer Fletcher Burns, Ped.D.	George L.P. Radcliffe, LL.D.	William Preston Lane, LL.D.
Eldridge Lyon Eliason, D.Sc.	Amos W.W. Woodcock, LL.D.	
James Albert Leach, D.D.		1948
Lewin Wethered Wickes, LL.D.	1935	William Jennings Wallace, LL.D.
	Thomas Alan Goldsborough, LL.D.	
1925	Harry Whinna Nice, LL.D.	1949
James Harry Covington, LL.D.	James Marshall Hana Rowland, LL.D.	Thomas Alan Goldsborough, D.C.L.
Alfred Pearce Dennis, LL.D.	Robert Lee Swain, D.Sc.	
Samuel William Wiley, D.Sc.	1936	1950
	Harry Clifton Byrd, LL.D.	William Rabon Howell, LL.D.
1926	1937	Colin Ferguson Starn, LL.D.
George William Davenport, D.D.	George Avery Bunting, D.Sc.	Charles Henry Watts, LL.D.
Clarence True Wilson, LL.D.	Guy Everett Snavely, LL.D.	
	1938	1951
1927	Charles Ledyard Atwater, D.D.	John Edward French, D.D.
Herbert Clark Hoover, LL.D.	Edward L. Israel, LL.D.	James Loomis Madden, LL.D.
Joseph Bruff Seth, LL.D.	George Emmet Wood, D.D.	Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, LL.D.
John Oakley Spencer, LL.D.		
Millard Evelyn Tydings, LL.D.	1939	1952
	John Irvin Coulbourn, LL.D.	Colgate Whitehead Darden, LL.D.
1928	Frank Pierrepont Graves, LL.D.	John Jay McCloy, D.C.L.
Horace Richard Barnes, LL.D.	Kent Roberts Greenfield, Litt.D.	Gilbert Thomas Rude, D.Sc.
James William Cain, LL.D.	Herbert Romulus O'Conor, LL.D.	
Omar Edgar Jones, D.D.		1953
Millard Fillmore Minnick, D.D.		Douglas Southall Freeman, L.H.D.
		Arthur Amory Houghton, LL.D.
1929		Frederick Blaine Noble, LL.D.
Hiram Staunton Brown, LL.D.		
Edwin Honeywood Dashiell, D.D.		
Clarence Poe, LL.D.		

1954	Stephen Roberts Collins, LL.D.	1965	Lammot duPont Copeland, H.H.D.	1976	Merrill Daniel Peterson, L.H.D.
	Dwight David Eisenhower, LL.D.		Fred Michael Hechinger, L.H.D.		Elliott Lee Richardson, LL.D.
	Wilson Homer Elkins, LL.D.				Stanley Woodward, L.H.D.
1955		1966	Brooks Atkinson, L.H.D.		George Thomas Pratt, L.H.D.
	Milton Campbell, LL.D.		Otto Frederick Kraushaar, H.H.D.		Hardy Cross Dillard, LL.D.
	Frank Pace Jr., L.H.D.				
1956		1967	Paul Smith Calloway, Mus.D.	1977	Pamela Cunningham Copeland, L.H.D.
	Jasper Yates Brinton, LL.D.		Marvin Banks Perry Jr., LL.D.		Charles McCurdy Mathias Jr., L.H.D.
	Clarence Pembroke Gould, LL.D.		Douglas Seale, D.F.A.		Louis L. Goldstein, LL.D.
1957		1968	Lincoln Gordon, LL.D.		Thomas Steele Nichols, L.H.D.
	William Oliver Baker, D.Sc.		Roy Joseph Plunkett, D.Sc.		Elias Williamson Nuttle, L.H.D.
	Henry Steele Commager, Litt.D.		Earl Warren, J.D.		
	Bentley Glass, D.Sc.			1978	
	Gaylord P. Harnwell, LL.D.	1969	Alpheus Thomas Mason, L.H.D.		Edmund Sears Morgan, L.H.D.
	Lee Lawrie, D.F.A.		Stewart Lee Udall, D.Sc.		Paul Spyros Sarbanes, LL.D.
	Noble Cilly Powell, D.D.				Ralph Olin Dulaney, L.H.D.
	Marten ten Hoor, LL.D.	1970	Daniel Zachary Gibson, L.H.D.	1979	
	Richard Daniel Wegle, LL.D.		Ernest Albert Howard, H.H.D.		James Bennett Coulter, D.Sc.
	Laurence C. Wroth, L.H.D.		George Daniel Olds, LL.D.		Blair Lee III, L.H.D.
1958		1971	Marvin Mandel, LL.D.		William Maurice Ellinghaus, D.Sc.
	Elmer Hutchisson, D.Sc.		Warren E. Burger, LL.D.		Margaret duPont de Villiers
	Norman Taylor, D.Sc.		William Sheppard Dix, L.H.D.		Ortiz Boden, L.H.D.
1959			Rogers C.B. Morton, LL.D.		(posthumously)
	George Boas, L.H.D.	1972	Walter Edward Washington, LL.D.	1980	
	William Raymond Horney, LL.D.		Anne Gary Pannell Taylor, L.H.D.		Henry Nichols Wagner Jr., D.Sc.
	John Millard Taves, LL.D.	1973	Thomas Lowe Hughes, LL.D.		Marvin Hugh Smith, LL.D.
1960			Nicholas Newlin, Litt.D.		His Royal Highness Prince
	Henry Powell Hopkins, D.F.A.		Avery William Hall, D.H.		Richard, Duke of Gloucester, D.F.A.
	Frederick George Livingood, LL.D.	1974	Steven Muller, D.S.Sc.	1981	
1961					James W. Rouse, D.H.
	Adelyn D. Breeskin, D.F.A.	1975	William Hardy McNeill, D.H.		Henry C. Wallich, D.Sc. in
	Mason Welch Gross, LL.D.		Keith Spalding, L.H.D.		Economics
1962			William Benjamin Johnson, LL.D.		William Stafford, Litt.D.
	Arthur Stanley Link, L.H.D.	1976	Frederick Blaine Noble, L.H.D.		Whitfield Jenks Bell Jr., LL.D.
1963			Lela Hodson Hynson, D.H.		Sir Fraser Noble, LL.D.
	Lyman H. Butterfield, H.H.D.				Finn M.W. Caspersen, D.H.
	Arthur Hobson Dean, H.H.D.			1982	
	Loren C. Eiseley, L.H.D.				Rob Roy, D.Sc.
	John Hamilton Hessey, LL.D.				Roger Mudd, D.H.L.
1964					Robert Crane, D.Sc.
	Wesley Leonidas Sadler, L.H.D.				Count Wilhelm Wachtmeister, LL.D.

1983
 Lady Bird Johnson, D.H.L.
 Walter Cronkite, D.H.L.
 Eugene B. Casey, D.Eng.

1984
 Sandra Day O'Connor, LL.D.
 William E. Simon, LL.D.
 H. Margaret Zassenhaus, H.D.
 David Mathews, H.D.
 William Donald Schaefer, LL.D.
 Daniel Yankelovich, H.D.

1985
 Philip J. Wingate, D.H.L.
 Robert O. Anderson, H.D.
 Arthur Doak Barnett, D.H.L.
 Roger L. Stevens, D.H.L.
 Steven Weinberg, D.L.
 George B. Rasin, LL.D.
 Maurice Strong, H.D.

1986
 Meg Greenfield, D.L.
 Dillon Ripley, H.D.
 Betty Brown Casey, H.D.
 Alexander Jones, LL.D.
 Wilbur Ross Hubbard, D.P.S.
 Constance Stuart Larrabee,
 D.F.A.

1987
 Bishop John T. Walker, D.H.L.
 Edmund S. Muskie, LL.D.
 J. William Fulbright, LL.D.
 Mortimer Adler, D.H.L.
 Atlee C. Kepler, D.L.

1988
 David McLaughlin, LL.D.
 Kurt Schmoke, LL.D.
 Juha Elizabeth Garraway, LL.D.
 Robert Breckenridge MacNeil,
 LL.D.
 Josiah Bunting III, D.L.
 Garry E. Clarke, D.L.

1989
 Shirley Williams, LL.D.
 Richard Neustadt, D.A.
 Eric Sevareid, D.H.L.
 Lucille Clifton, D.L.
 Rosalind Havemeyer, D.A.
 Horace Havemeyer, D.A.
 Theodore Kurze, D.Sc.
 Eric Bloch, D.Sc.

1990
 James Price, D.P.S.
 John Hope Franklin, D.H.L.
 Timothy Wirth, LL.D.
 Douglass Cater, LL.D.
 Libby Anderson Cater, D.P.S.

1991
 William Shield McFeely, D.H.L.
 William Clayton Baker, D.P.S.
 Richard Tabler Feller, D.H.L.
 Clara L. Adams-Ender, D.P.S.
 Helen Schaefer Gibson, D.H.L.

1992
 Sylvia Alice Earle, D.Sc.
 Marian Wright Edelman, LL.D.
 Linda Koch Loruner, D.H.L.
 Gloria Anne Borger, D.L.
 Elizabeth Moffat White, D.P.S.
 Ernest Lee Boyer, D.H.L.
 James Grant Nelson, D.L.

1993
 Michael A. Armacost, LL.D.
 Gertrude Belle Elion, D.Sc.
 Barbara A. Mikulski, LL.D.
 Antonia C. Novello, D.Sc.
 Robert C. Murphy, LL.D.
 Robert Upshur Woodward, D.L.
 J. Carter Brown, D.F.A.

1994
 Stephen A. Ambrose, D.L.
 David McCullough, D.L.
 Kathleen Kennedy Townsend,
 LL.D.
 Philip Uri Treisman, D.Sc.
 David Zinman, D.F.A.

1995
 Johnnetta B. Cole, D.P.S.
 Frances Anne Hughes
 Glendenning, D.P.S.
 Parris N. Glendenning, D.P.S.
 Henry P. Laughlin, D.P.S.
 Lynn Margulies, D.Sc.
 William C. Richardson, D.H.L.

1996
 William P. Hytche, D.H.L.
 Edward L. Lewis, D.H.L.
 Robert W. Gavin, D.Sc.
 Carl T. Rowan, D.L.
 Russell Train, D.P.S.
 Cohn Powell, D.P.S.

1997
 Jane Alexander, D.F.A.
 Alonzo G. Decker Jr., D.P.S.
 Michael Druda, D.P.S.
 Glenn Seaborg, D.Sc.
 I. Michael Heyman, LL.D.

1998
 Charles O. Holliday Jr., D.S.
 Bruce Hornsby, D.F.A.
 Neal Lane, D.S.
 Benjamin C. Bradlee, D.L.

1999
 James H. Billington, D.H.L.
 George H.W. Bush, D.P.S.
 Barbara Bush, D.P.S.
 James D. Watson, D.Sc.
 C.N. Yang, D.Sc.

Key to Honorary Degrees

D.D.	Doctor of Divinity
LL.D.	Doctor of Law
J.D.	Doctor of Law
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
A.M.	Master of Arts
Ped.D.	Doctor of Pedagogy
Litt.D.	Doctor of Letters
D.L.	Doctor of Letters
D.Sc.	Doctor of Science
M.Sc.	Master of Science
D.C.L.	Doctor of Civil Law
D.F.A.	Doctor of Fine Arts
L.H.D.	Doctor of Humanities (<i>Litterarum Humaniorum Doctor</i>)
D.H.	Doctor of Humanities
D.P.S.	Doctor of Public Service
D.H.L.	Doctor of Humane Letters

Distinguished Teaching Awards 1964-1999

Lindback Award

Gerda Blumenthal	1964	Michael Goldstein	1979
Joseph H. McLain	1965	Robert Anderson	1980
Richard H. Brown	1965	Richard Gillin	1981
Nathan Smith	1966	John Conkling	1982
Robert L. Harder	1967	Donald Munson	1983
Margaret Horsley	1968	James Siemen	1984
Katherine Yaw	1969	Joachim Scholz	1985
Frank Creegan	1970	Erika Salloch	1986
Tai Sung An	1971	Damel Premo	1987
Thomas F. McHugh	1972	Patricia Horne	1988
John A. Miller	1973	John Taylor	1989
Garry Clarke	1974	George Spilich	1990
Nancy Tatum	1975	Kevin Brien	1991
Kevin McDonnell	1976	Bennett Lamond	1992
Guy F. Goodfellow	1977	Davy McCall	1993
Norman James	1978		

Alumni Teaching Award

David Newell	1994
H. Louise Amick	1995
Kathleen Verville	1996
Sean O'Connor	1997
Michael Kerchner	1998
Kathleen J. Mills	1999

Awards for Excellence 1976-2000

Andrew Wyeth	1976
Helen Brooke Taussig	1977
James A. Michener	1978
Harry R. Hughes	1980
Crawford H. Greenwalt	1980
William O. Baker	1981
John Gardner	1982
Lewis Thomas	1983
Art Buchwald	1985
Isaac Stern	1985
Paul Horgan	1985
Alonzo Decker Jr.	1986
Nathaniel C. Wyeth	1987
Richard Wilbur	1988
Martine van Hamel	1992
Billie Whitelaw	1992
Charlie Byrd	1994
James Browning Wyeth	1997
R. Don Higginbotham	1999
Charles Guggenheim	2000

George Washington Medals and Awards 1960-1999

Given each year to the senior who, in the estimation of the president and the faculty, shows the greatest promise of understanding and of realizing in life and work the ideals of a liberal education.

Anne D. Matthews	1960	Lisa Rene Hartsook	1980
Rafael Sarmiento	1961	Lee Ann Clearney	1981
Patrick Cullen	1962	Gail Marie Krall	1982
Ormond L. Andrew Jr.	1963	Deborah Jean Ortt	1983
Margaret E. Matthews	1964	Norman D. Prentiss	1984
Roy R. Schwartz	1964	Natalie Joy Brown	1984
Pamela A. Kaminsky	1965	Kathleen Ann MacPhee	1985
Geraldine J. Maiatico	1966	Suzanne Lynn Niemeyer	1986
Judith L. Reynolds	1967	Armand F. Mettraux	1986
Donna M. Blatt	1968	Susan Marie De Pasquale	1987
Raymond W. Felton	1969	Sean Moore Irton	1988
Jessie J. Doukas	1970	Mona Grey Brinkley	1989
Donald W. Rogers	1970	Michael S. McGinniss	1990
Janet Ruth Sears	1971	Tamara-Diana Braunstein	1991
Dale W. Trusheim	1972	Raphael R. Koster	1992
Mary Ruth Yoe	1973	Jennifer Lynn Del Nero	1993
Barbara J. Daly	1974	Maria Janette Jerard	1994
George W. Reed	1975	Megan Elizabeth Ward	1995
Karen C. Ransing	1976	Amanda B. Kirby	1996
Mark S. Mical	1977	Theresa Elaine Senn	1997
Margaret Ellen Gamboa	1978	Allison Denise Tuttle	1998
Susan Diane Farace	1979	Marianne E. Rodney	1999

Sophie Kerr Awards 1968-1999

Given to the graduating senior having "the best ability and promise for future fulfillment in the field of literary endeavor."

Christina Clark	1968	Norman D. Prentiss	1984
William S. "Gil" Bradford	1969	Sandra Marie Hiordahl	1985
William L. Thompson	1970	Douglas M. Rose	1986
James L. Dissette	1971	Susan De Pasquale	1987
Robert Burkholder	1972	Dean Hebert	1988
Mary Ruth Yoc	1973	Michele Balzé	1989
Kevin O'Keefe	1974	Harvey R. Hammer	1990
William C. Bowie	1975	Robert Thompson	1991
Craig Butcher	1976	Patrick Attenasio	1992
Mary Ellen Lipinski	1977	Erin Page	1993
Arthur E. Bilodeau	1978	Tanya Angel Allen	1994
Joanne Ahearn	1979	Katherine Degentesh	1995
Claire Mowbray	1980	Jennifer Waldyck	1996
Ellen Beardsley	1981	Brandon Hopkins	1997
Peter D. Turchi	1982	Edward Geisweidt	1998
Juha Stricker	1983	Luke E. Owens	1999

The Washington College Mace



The old Washington College mace (left), short and made of wood, was replaced in June 1961 when architect Henry Powell Hopkins presented the College with a more ornate ceremonial staff. The new mace, which is used at all College processions, is forty-two inches long and is topped with a silver sphere engraved with the College seal, a silhouette of George Washington's face, the Kent County seal, and Washington's coat-of-arms. Six matched garnets are set in a silver ring around the head. The silver engravings were done by a member of the Hopkins family and took seven months to complete. Architect Hopkins designed many of the College buildings during the first half of the twentieth century.



Washington College Alumni Citations

1952-1999

1952	J. Jerome Frampton Jr. '29, Public Service William Robert Huey '08, Banking R. Loran Langsdale '10, Business Mary Grace Riggan '08, Education William Allan Robinson '30, Engineering William Houston Toulson, M.D. '08, Medicine Fred R. Wallace '17, Athletics B. Blackiston Wroth '08, Education	1957 George F. Carrington '29, Athletics J. Milton Noble '33, Business Louis Thibodeau '12, Education Mason Trupp, M.D. '33, Medicine
1953	Wade G. Bounds '22, Business Norman S. Dudley, M.D. '98, Medicine Louis L. Goldstein '35, Government William B. Nicholson '36, Athletics Ida Deane Plummer '99, Education George T. Pratt '36, Education Phillip J. Wingate '33, Science	1958 J. Stuart Galloway '17, Law Edgar A. McGinnes '18, Government Service
1954	Joseph H. Freedman '36, Religion George W. Powell '02, Business Howard B. Owens '31, Education Pearl Griffin Stewart '05, Civic Affairs Norwood W. Voss, M.D. '08, Medicine	1959 Walter T. Morris Jr. '29, Agriculture Benjamin Vandervoort '38, Military Paul J. Wilkinson '31, Law
1955	Wendell D. Allen '31, Law G. Francis Beaven '25, Science J. Willard Davis '15, Education Jacob D. Rieger '28, Civic Affairs Wesley L. Sadler '35, Religion	1960 Henry T. Hollingsworth '18, Education T. H. Owen Knight '25, Education Ernest J. Langham, M.D. '23, Medicine William A. McAdams '40, Health, Physics Joseph Messick, M.D. '23, Medicine
1956	W. Howard Corddry '08, Engineering Rodney Crowther '18, Journalism Melvin B. Davis, M.D. '28, Medicine C. Edward Duffy '24, Law Maude O. Hickman '00, Civic Affairs	1961 John H. Coppage '15, Public Service George deSocio '35, Electrical Engineering Albert P. Giraitis '34, Chemistry William B. Johnson '40, Business
1957		1962 Paul Pippin '34, Architecture Thomas Reeder Spedden '17, Business
1958		1963 Robert K. Crane '42, Chemistry
1959		1964 Mary Farr Hegg '33, Nursing Stanley B. Giraitis '30, Sales Stanley G. Robbins '21, Law David H. Wallace '35, Science Earl T. Willis '31, Education

1965	Henry F. Maguire, M.D. '42, Medicine	1979	Bernard Mitchell '56, Business
1966	Francis H. Bratton '37, Chemistry	Rebecca Neal Brown Owens '25, Community Service	
	Edwin T. Luckey '31, Fine Arts		
1967	J. Lewin Burris '12, Public Service	1980	Fred W. Dumschott '27, Education
1968	Theodore Kurze, M.D. '43, Medicine	1981	Owen Anderson '40, Science and Education
	Joseph M. O'Farrell '34, Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding		William D. Geitz '50, Chemistry and Business
1969	Marvin H. Smith '37, Law	1982	Jack R. Schroeder '58, Art and Illustration
	John A. Wagner, M.D. '34, Medicine		
1970	Joseph H. McLain '37, Science and Higher Education	1983	George B. Rasin Jr. '37, Jurisprudence
	Graham W. Watt '49, City Management		Maurice L. Rayne '31, Public Service
1971	J. Warren Carey '33, Business Management	1984	C. Lawrence Brandenburg Jr., D.D.S. '50, Public Service
	Bernard Dubin '31, Jurisprudence		Gilbert V. Byron '23, Literature
1972	Edward L. Athey '47, Athletics	1985	William E. Dulin '47, Scientific Research
	William G. Duvall '30, Labor Relations		W. Rowland Taylor '40, Environmental Science
1973	Frank Macielag '48, Business Management	1986	John D. Howard '59, Education
1974	William W. Thompson '38, Aerospace Medicine		William Kenmon Perrin '31, Public Service
1975	Alfred W. Reddish '37, Business Management	1987	Joseph J. Longobardi '52, Jurisprudence
	Nathan Schnaper, M.D. '40, Medicine		Harry C. Rhodes '35, Education
1976	Laurence Yourtee '37, Education	1988	Elizabeth Sutton Duvall '30, Civic Affairs
1977	Charles B. Clark '34, Education		F. Spencer Robinson '43, Public Service
	James C. Jones '47, Business Management	1989	Dean S. Ferris '67, Business
1978	Mary Lou Bartram '48, Corrections		Linda Hamilton '78, Theater Arts
	Hubert Ryan '33, Community Service	1990	Rodgers T. Smith '55, Education & Citizenship
			John W. Williams Jr. '43, Cooperative Leadership
1991			
			M. Douglass Gates '59, Public Service
			R. Ford Schumann Jr. '73, Public Service

1992

Barbara Delaney Turk '55, Mental Health

1993

William R. Russell Jr. '53, Real Estate Management & Financial Affairs

1994

J. Michael Ludden '73, Journalism

Peter D. Turchi '83, Creative Writing

1995

T. Christopher Ely '70, Public Service

1996

David J. Litrenta, MD '58, Medicine

Ralph Snyderman, MD '61, Medicine

1997

Karen A. Johnson, MD '68, Medicine

1998

John A. Conkling '65, Science

Agnes Zaffere Orban '41, Education

1999

Richard H. Smith Jr. '66, Science

Richard E. Holstein DMD '68, Public Service

Washington College Presidents

William Smith	1782-1789
Colin Ferguson	1793-1805
Hugh McGuire	1813-1815
Francis Waters	1818-1823
Timothy Clowes	1823-1829
Peter Clark	1829-1832
Richard W. Ringgold	1832-1854
Francis Waters	1854-1860
Andrew J. Sutton	1860-1867
Robert C. Berkeley	1867-1873
William J. Rivers	1873-1887
Thomas N. Williams	1887-1889
Charles W. Reid	1889-1903
James W. Can	1903-1918
Clarence P. Gould	1919-1923
Paul E. Titworth	1923-1933
Gilbert W. Mead	1933-1949
Daniel Z. Gibson	1950-1970
Charles J. Merdinger	1970-1973
Joseph H. McLain	1973-1981
Douglas Cater	1982-1990
Charles H. Trout	1990-1995
John S. Toll	1995-

Donors of \$1 Million or More Through 1999

Eugene B. and Betty Brown Casey '47
The Eugene B. Casey Foundation
Kenneth H. and Dorothy Williams Daly '38
Virginia G. and Alonzo G. Decker Jr.
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Carol I. and Jack S. Griswold
The Hodson Trust
Mary B. and William B. Johnson '40
The Grayce B. Kerr Fund
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The Kresge Foundation
Margaret Penick Nuttle
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Marjorie B. and W. James Price
The Starr Foundation
Mary Ivohue Jammer White

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Hodson Trust Chair in Economics
Ernest A. Howard Chair in English Literature
W. Alton Jones Chair in Chemistry
Joseph H. McLain Chair in Environmental Studies
Clifton H. Miller Chair in Mathematics
Everett E. Nuttle Chair in History and Political Science
Louis L. Goldstein Chair in Public Affairs
Clarence C. White Chair in Chemistry

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